

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 109

(Delegate Love)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Energy, and the Environment

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**Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland**

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This bill establishes the Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland to review the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) and study the recycling and waste systems in Maryland. The task force must make recommendations on how to update MRA to focus on the recycling and diversion of materials to help achieve the State’s recycling and greenhouse gas reduction goals and the feasibility of implementing regional recycling and waste disposal facilities, including (1) the locations of possible facility sites, as specified; (2) cost-sharing opportunities; (3) developing service networks; and (4) advancing principles of zero waste. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must provide staff for the task force. Task force members may not receive compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses. By June 30, 2024, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to specified committees of the General Assembly. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023, and terminates December 31, 2024.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for MDE are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

**Local Effect:** Any costs for local governments to participate in the task force are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources. Local revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## Analysis

**Current Law:** The solid waste infrastructure in Maryland consists of both permitted and nonpermitted facilities, and solid waste is managed through a combination of recycling, composting, landfilling, energy recovery, and exporting for disposal or recycling. There are several examples of regional waste management partnerships in the State.

Maryland's recycling policy is guided by MRA, which sets mandatory recycling rates for State government and local jurisdictions, as well as a voluntary statewide waste diversion goal of 60% and a voluntary statewide recycling goal of 55% by 2020. Each county (including Baltimore City), must recycle at least 20% or 35% of the county's solid waste stream, depending on the county's population. Each county (including Baltimore City) must also prepare a recycling plan that addresses how the jurisdiction will achieve its mandatory recycling rate. The plan must be submitted to MDE's Office of Recycling for approval when the jurisdiction submits its water and sewerage plan at least every 10 years. At least every 2 years, each county must also submit a progress report to MDE, which must include any revision of or amendment to the county plan that has been adopted.

MDE's Office of Recycling submits annual reports, in coordination with the Maryland Environmental Service, to the Governor and the General Assembly on specified information related to recycling in Maryland. Beginning in 2009, MDE has combined the *Maryland Waste Diversion Activities Report* and the *Solid Waste Managed in Maryland Report* into one report, the *Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Report*.

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### Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 217 of 2022 and HB 807 of 2021.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of the Environment; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 18, 2023  
js/lgc Third Reader - March 20, 2023

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