

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 901 (Senators Augustine and Love)
 Education, Energy, and the Environment

Environment - Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility Plans

This bill alters provisions relating to the existing Producer Responsibility Advisory Council and establishes a required framework for producers of packaging materials to create and implement producer responsibility plans for affected products. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must approve a producer responsibility organization by June 30, 2025, and the organization must register annually beginning July 1, 2025. Producer responsibility plans must be submitted by each producer to MDE for review and approval by April 1, 2027. Beginning on a date set by MDE, a producer may not sell, offer for sale, distribute, or import for sale or distribution packaging materials for use in the State unless the producer has an approved plan. Each local government must file a specified feasibility plan by December 1, 2025. The bill also establishes (1) requirements for an ongoing statewide recycling needs assessment and (2) enforcement provisions. MDE must adopt implementing regulations. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$41,400 in FY 2025 for initial staff. Future year expenditures (both general and special funds) reflect annualization, inflation, ongoing costs, and new staff in FY 2026 and 2028. Special fund revenues increase by \$1,000 in FY 2026 and 2027 from initial fees; out-years reflect ongoing fee revenue, which fully offset MDE’s costs beginning in FY 2028. State expenditures (multiple funds) may increase beginning in FY 2028.

(in dollars)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
SF Revenue	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$567,900	\$545,600
GF Expenditure	\$41,400	\$308,800	\$334,300	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$567,900	\$545,600
GF/SF Exp.	\$0	\$0	\$0	-	-
Net Effect	(\$41,400)	(\$308,800)	(\$334,300)	(-)	(-)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Potential significant increase in local government expenditures in FY 2025 and/or 2026 for at least some local governments to develop and file a feasibility plan. Local finances may also be affected in the out-years, as discussed below. **This bill may impose a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: Meaningful.

Analysis

Bill Summary: It is the intent of the General Assembly that Title 9, Subtitle 25 of the Environment Article, as altered by the bill, provide a framework for modernizing and improving waste and recycling systems in the State, as specified, and reimbursing local governments for costs associated with transporting, collecting, and processing packaging materials. Subtitle 25 does not affect the authority of the State or a local jurisdiction to regulate the sale or use of any packaging material. Further, Subtitle 25 may not be construed to (1) prohibit a local government or any other entity from selling recycled materials or compost to end markets and retaining the revenues from those sales; (2) affect the authority of a publicly or privately owned materials recycling facility or organics recycling facility to determine which entities may use the facility; or (3) limit the ability of local governments, materials recycling facilities, or organics recycling facilities to make decisions on recycling infrastructure purchases, including processing equipment.

Key Definitions

The bill expands the definition of “producer” to exclude an entity that generated less than *\$1.0 million* in gross revenue during the immediately preceding calendar year (rather than *\$5.0 million* under current law). The definition of “producer responsibility organization” is also altered to mean a nonprofit organization that is (1) exempt from taxation under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and (2) created by a group of producers to *implement a “producer responsibility plan”* in accordance with Subtitle 25 (rather than to *represent the interests of producers* under the subtitle). A “producer responsibility plan” means a packaging materials producer responsibility plan submitted by a producer or producer responsibility organization in accordance with the bill.

Producer Responsibility Advisory Council

The bill alters provisions related to the membership, stated purpose, and duties of the Producer Responsibility Advisory Council that was established pursuant to Chapter 465 of 2023. The stated purpose of the advisory council is altered to include providing advice on drafting, amending, and implementing producer responsibility plans.

The bill repeals the existing duty of the advisory council (which, under current law, is to evaluate and make recommendations, including legislative recommendations, on how to effectively establish and implement a producer responsibility program in the State for packaging materials). It also repeals a related reporting requirement. Under the bill, the advisory council must (1) provide advice regarding the drafting or amending of a producer responsibility plan, on request of a producer or producer responsibility organization; (2) receive and review the producer responsibility plans and annual reports submitted in accordance with the bill; (3) make recommendations to MDE regarding producer responsibility plan approval; (4) make recommendations to MDE and producer responsibility organizations regarding plan implementation; and (5) provide written recommendations regarding the producer responsibility plan, including any update or revision to an approved plan, to a producer responsibility organization before the plan is submitted to MDE.

Registration of Producer Responsibility Organizations

The bill repeals an existing requirement that required MDE, by October 1, 2023, to approve a single producer responsibility organization to represent the interests of producers under the provisions of law relating to the Producer Responsibility Advisory Council.

By June 30, 2025, MDE must approve a single producer responsibility organization. Beginning July 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the producer responsibility organization must file a registration form with MDE and pay an annual registration fee to cover the costs of recordkeeping. The fee may not exceed \$1,000. The registration form must include specified information, including a list of the producers participating in the producer responsibility organization. Before establishing and collecting an annual registration fee, MDE must publish the proposed fee on its website and allow 90 calendar days for public comment.

Beginning July 1, 2031, a nonprofit organization may request that MDE designate the nonprofit organization as an additional producer responsibility organization. MDE may designate an additional producer responsibility organization if MDE determines, in coordination with the advisory council, that the designation is necessary to increase recycling rates or improve recycling services for a specific type of packaging material. If MDE approves the designation of an additional producer responsibility organization, the producer responsibility organization must (1) register with MDE within 30 days of approval (and by July 1 annually thereafter) and (2) pay the annual registration fee. The registration form must include specified information. Any additional producer responsibility organizations must coordinate with the original producer responsibility organization established under the bill, MDE, and local governments, as specified.

The original producer responsibility organization and any additional producer responsibility organizations designated as described above may create a representative organization to represent the participating producer responsibility organizations to implement the bill's requirements.

Development, Review, and Implementation of Producer Responsibility Plans

By April 1, 2027, and every five years thereafter, each producer must submit a producer responsibility plan to MDE for review and approval (either individually or as part of a producer responsibility organization). Before submitting a plan to MDE for review, a producer or producer responsibility organization must consult with, consider written recommendations from, and respond in writing to the advisory council.

Beginning on a certain date determined by MDE and established in regulation, a producer may not sell, offer for sale, distribute, or import for sale or distribution packaging materials for use in the State unless the producer has an approved producer responsibility plan on file with MDE (either individually or as part of a producer responsibility organization). However, a producer is not required to submit a producer responsibility plan to MDE (individually or as part of a producer responsibility organization) if another person has agreed to assume responsibility for the producer's packaging material, as specified.

The bill establishes the minimum content for a producer responsibility plan. Among other things, the plan must (1) identify the producers and brands covered by the plan, as specified; (2) include a number of performance goals that are achievable within five years for each packaging material type; (3) require participating producers to reduce all packaging material waste to the maximum extent practicable, and by at least 25% within five years after the date on which the first version of the plan is approved; (4) include the written recommendations from the advisory council, the producer responsibility organization's written response, and how the written recommendations were considered and addressed in the development plan; and (5) any other information required by MDE. The plan must also describe (1) the financing method that will be used to implement the plan (discussed in more detail below); (2) how the performance goals will be met or exceeded; (3) how staffing and administering the implementation of the plan will be handled; (4) the actions taken or that will be taken for public outreach, education, and communication, as specified; (5) the amount of funding that will be used to improve reuse, composting, and recycling in the State; and (6) the process by which a local government may request reimbursement for costs associated with transporting, collecting, and processing packaging materials that are identified in the plan, as specified.

The financing method that will be used by a producer responsibility organization to implement a producer responsibility plan must meet specified requirements and must be evaluated by an MDE-designated independent financial auditor to ensure that the costs of

implementing the plan are covered. The mandatory reimbursement rate and fee structure must meet specified requirements and metrics, and the producer responsibility organization must take specified actions before establishing the fee structure. The funding that will be used to improve reuse, composting, and recycling must include specified investments and give priority to specified existing infrastructure. A producer responsibility organization must retain any fee collected in its own account. MDE may request an audit of a producer responsibility organization's financial records at any time.

Based on the results of the most recent statewide recycling needs assessment conducted pursuant to Chapter 465 or the bill (discussed below), MDE, in coordination with a producer responsibility organization, must establish performance goals for each packaging material type using a baseline year that is informed by the needs assessment, including establishing recycling rate goals for each packaging material type at 5-, 10-, and 15-year intervals.

MDE must review the producer responsibility plan, and within 120 days, either approve, approve with conditions, or reject a plan submitted for review. The bill establishes several considerations MDE must take into account when making a determination regarding a producer responsibility plan. Within 60 days of plan approval, the entity that submitted the plan must pay to MDE (1) MDE's cost of reviewing the plan and (2) MDE's estimated costs to administer, oversee, and enforce the plan between the initial approval date and the date of the initial annual report required by the bill.

In addition to reviewing the producer responsibility plan(s), MDE must also review the work product of the independent financial auditor designated by MDE to evaluate the financing component of the producer responsibility plan(s).

The implementation of an approved producer responsibility plan must begin no later than six months after the date the plan is approved by MDE. An approved plan expires after five years, but MDE may rescind approval of a plan at any time for good cause. Additionally, a producer responsibility plan may continue beyond five years if it is renegotiated, renewed, or amended and approved by MDE in accordance with the bill. If, based on the annual report submitted, specified performance goals have not been met, MDE may require a plan amendment or impose an administrative penalty on a producer or producer responsibility organization (discussed more below). If MDE requires a producer or producer responsibility organization to amend a plan, the producer or producer responsibility organization must cover MDE's costs, as specified.

Beginning March 1, 2028, each producer or producer responsibility organization that has an approved producer responsibility plan on file with MDE must report annually to MDE on the progress toward meeting plan requirements and goals for the immediately preceding calendar year. The annual report must include specified information. Any financial,

production, or sales data reported to MDE by a producer or producer responsibility organization must be kept confidential, as specified. Other than confidential information, the annual report must be posted on MDE's website and the website of the producer or producer responsibility organization. Along with the annual report, a producer or producer responsibility organization must also submit payment for MDE's estimated costs of administering, overseeing, and enforcing the plan for the next year.

MDE's Office of Recycling is tasked with reviewing and approving, in consultation with the advisory council, producer responsibility plans and annual reports.

Local Feasibility Plans and Reimbursement for Local Governments

By December 1, 2025, each local government in the State must file a feasibility plan with MDE that prioritizes the sale of recycled packaging materials back to manufacturers that have a manufacturing facility in the State.

In accordance with the requirements of a producer responsibility organization, as established in an approved plan on file with MDE, and any other requirement adopted by MDE, a local government may request reimbursement from a producer responsibility organization for costs associated with collecting, transporting, and processing packaging materials that are identified under the plan, as specified.

If multiple producer responsibility organizations register approved producer responsibility plans with MDE, the producer responsibility organizations (1) must coordinate reimbursement requested pursuant to this provision and (2) may establish a third-party entity to coordinate reimbursement. A local government is not authorized to request reimbursement for costs associated with composting materials that are not packaging materials.

Legal Immunities and Enforcement

Any person participating in a producer responsibility plan in compliance with the bill is immune from liability under State law relating to antitrust and restraint of trade for any cooperated activities arising out of the recycling, reuse, and disposal of packaging materials.

Current law provisions under §§ 9-334 through 9-344 of the Environment Article apply to enforce violations of Title 9, Subtitle 25 of the Environment Article (as amended by the bill) and any regulations adopted or orders issued pursuant to Subtitle 25. In addition, a producer or producer responsibility organization that violates Subtitle 25 is subject to an administrative penalty of \$5,000 for a first violation, an administrative penalty of \$10,000 for a second violation, and a civil penalty of \$20,000 for a third or subsequent

violation. Before imposing a penalty on a producer, MDE must first issue a written notice of violation to the producer and give the producer an opportunity to correct the violation within 60 days after receipt of the written notice. After the 60-day period, each day that a violation continues is a separate violation.

As discussed above, MDE may also impose an administrative penalty on a producer responsibility organization if, based on the annual report submitted, the performance goals established pursuant to the bill have not been achieved. The administrative penalty may not exceed \$250,000.

Any penalty collected by MDE under these provisions must be paid into the existing State Recycling Trust Fund.

Statewide Recycling Needs Assessments

By July 30, 2034, and at least once every 10 years thereafter, MDE's Office of Recycling must hire an independent consultant to conduct a statewide recycling needs assessment to inform the provision of recycling services in the State, including the implementation of Subtitle 25. The needs assessment must include specified analyses and evaluations, address a variety of topics, and make certain recommendations related to the State's recycling system and extended producer responsibility programs, among other things. The Office of Recycling must report the results of each assessment to the Governor and the General Assembly. In conducting the assessment, the independent consultant must consult with producer responsibility organizations, the advisory council, appropriate local government entities, and regional solid waste organizations in the State. The Office of Recycling must establish and collect a fee that is paid by producer responsibility organizations to cover the costs of conducting an assessment. Before establishing and collecting a fee, the Office of Recycling must publish the proposed fee on its website and allow 90 calendar days for public comment. Fee revenue is paid into the State Recycling Trust Fund.

Expanded Fund Sources and Uses of the State Recycling Trust Fund and New Account

The fund sources for the State Recycling Trust Fund are expanded to include any fees collected from producer responsibility organizations. The authorized uses of the State Recycling Trust Fund are expanded to include covering the cost of conducting the statewide recycling needs assessments and producer responsibility plan review, oversight, and enforcement. The bill requires the establishment of a separate account within the fund that consists of any fees collected from producer responsibility organizations and all fines and penalties collected pursuant to the bill's enforcement provisions. The separate account may only be used for the costs of the statewide needs assessment and producer responsibility plan review, oversight, and enforcement.

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, incineration, storage, and exporting for disposal or recycling.

Maryland's recycling policy is guided by the Maryland Recycling Act (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 Office of Recycling

MDE's Office of Recycling, among other things, reviews county recycling plans and coordinates the efforts of the State to facilitate the implementation of the recycling goals at the county level. Counties are required to periodically report solid waste and recycling data to the department.

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*.

Chapter 465 required the Office of Recycling to hire an independent consultant to conduct a statewide recycling needs assessment, which must, among other things, include (1) analysis of the costs and benefits, and potential environmental impact, of implementing an extended producer responsibility program for packaging materials (which include beverage containers) and (2) recommendations on the best practices to follow from successful extended producer responsibility programs in other states and countries. By July 30, 2024, the office was required to report on the results of the assessment. The Act also established a Producer Responsibility Advisory Council to provide advice and recommendations regarding establishing and implementing a producer responsibility program in the State for packaging materials. The advisory council was required to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and specified legislative committees by December 1, 2024. As of the publication of this fiscal and policy note, these reports have not yet been submitted.

State Recycling Trust Fund

The State Recycling Trust Fund is a special fund that is used to:

- carry out the purposes of MDE's Land Management Administration;
- provide grants to (1) counties to develop and implement local recycling plans; (2) counties that have addressed methods for the separate collection and recycling of covered electronic devices; and (3) municipalities to be used to implement local covered electronic device recycling programs; and
- cover specified costs of the Paint Stewardship Program (established under Chapters 587 and 588 of 2024).

Relevant Enforcement Provisions

The provisions of §§ 9-334 through 9-341 of the Environment Article, which are established under provisions relating to Title 9, Subtitle 3 of the Environment Article (Water Pollution Control), establish enforcement procedures that govern (1) the ability of MDE to issue complaints, conduct hearings, issue corrective orders, and obtain injunctive relief and (2) judicial review of final decisions.

Under § 9-343 of the Environment Article, a person who violates any provision of or fails to perform any duty imposed by Title 9, Subtitle 3 of the Environment Article, or who violates any provision or fails to perform any duty imposed by a rule, regulation, order, or permit adopted or issued under that subtitle, is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a maximum fine of \$25,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year for a first offense and a maximum fine of \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for up to two years for a subsequent offense. The person may also be enjoined from continuing the violation. Each day on which a violation occurs is a separate violation.

In addition, a person is guilty of misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a maximum fine of \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for up to two years if the person (1) knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained under the subtitle or (2) falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under the subtitle or any rule, regulation, order, or permit adopted or issued under the subtitle.

Pursuant to § 9-344 of the Environment Article, the Attorney General is in charge of prosecuting and defending cases that arise on behalf of the State.

State Fiscal Effect:

Maryland Department of the Environment Administrative Costs and Related Fee Revenue

The bill contemplates that producer responsibility organizations and producers will fully fund, through fees paid to MDE, MDE's costs to implement the bill. However, those entities are not required to submit their plans until April 1, 2027 (fiscal 2027). MDE has 120 days to approve plans once they are submitted, and producers and producer responsibility organizations have 60 days from plan approval to pay MDE for its costs. MDE begins to incur costs, however, in fiscal 2025 (due to the bill's June 1, 2025 effective date). While some fee revenue begins to accrue in fiscal 2026 and 2027 (from the annual registration fee paid by the producer responsibility organization), fee revenue will not fully offset MDE's costs until fiscal 2028 (when it is assumed that most plans are approved and responsible entities must pay fees to cover MDE's plan review and implementation costs). Accordingly, for purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that general funds are needed in fiscal 2025 through 2027 to supplement the special funds that are available in those years (as discussed below).

Administrative Costs: General fund expenditures increase by \$41,429 in fiscal 2025, which accounts for the bill's June 1, 2025 effective date. MDE expenditures increase by a total of \$309,817 in fiscal 2026 (\$308,817 in general funds and \$1,000 in special funds) and by \$335,281 in fiscal 2027 (\$334,281 in general funds and \$1,000 in special funds). Special fund expenditures increase by \$567,933 in fiscal 2028. These estimates reflect the cost of hiring two natural resource planners and one administrative specialist in fiscal 2025, one additional natural resource planner in fiscal 2026, and two environmental compliance specialists in fiscal 2028.

The initial two natural resource planners and the administrative specialist are hired in fiscal 2025 to begin implementing the bill by (1) identifying MDE's administrative costs, planning, and posting proposed annual registration fees on its website; (2) conducting outreach, identifying, and registering the producer responsibility organization as well as designating the independent financial auditor; (3) developing and promulgating regulations; and (4) providing additional staff support for the advisory council. The third natural resource planner is hired in fiscal 2026 to (along with the initial employees) (1) review local feasibility plans; (2) review producer responsibility plans, the work product of the independent financial auditor, and annual reports; (3) track progress of implemented plans; and (4) post annual reports online. The environmental compliance specialists are hired in fiscal 2028 to (1) conduct compliance inspections and investigate complaints and (2) generally enforce the bill once the producer responsibility plans are in place. These estimates include salaries, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses. The information and assumptions used in calculating the estimate are stated below:

- pursuant to current law, MDE staffs the advisory council;
- the bill applies to a large number of producers, who are not already known by MDE, requiring a significant amount of outreach and administrative organization;
- MDE must review a relatively large number of producer responsibility plans on an ongoing basis; and
- in order to establish a robust producer responsibility program in the State, MDE needs to hire additional staff.

	<u>Fiscal 2025</u>	<u>Fiscal 2026</u>	<u>Fiscal 2027</u>	<u>Fiscal 2028</u>
Positions (New)	3.0	1.0	0.0	2.0
Salaries and Fringe Benefits (Total)	\$20,544	\$298,092	\$329,772	\$511,872
Vehicle Purchase	0	0	0	34,650
Other Operating Expenses	<u>20,885</u>	<u>11,725</u>	<u>5,509</u>	<u>21,411</u>
Total MDE Administrative Costs	\$41,429	\$309,817	\$335,281	\$567,933

Future year expenditures reflect salaries with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses. As noted above, beginning in fiscal 2028, it is assumed that all costs incurred by MDE are covered with special funds.

Fee Revenue: Beginning in fiscal 2026, special fund revenues from registration fees paid by the producer responsibility organization total \$1,000 annually (assuming the maximum fee is established).

As discussed above, based on the deadlines established in the bill, it is assumed that fees paid by a producer responsibility organization or a producer to pay for MDE’s plan review costs and the estimated costs to administer, oversee, and enforce the plan between the initial date of approval and the initial annual report submission (March 1, 2028) likely do not accrue until fiscal 2028. Accordingly, beginning in fiscal 2028, special fund revenues from fees paid by producer responsibility organizations and producers fully offset MDE’s administrative costs.

When submitting annual reports, producer responsibility organizations and producers must pay MDE for MDE’s estimated costs to administer, oversee, and enforce the plan for the *following year*. MDE may also recoup any additional plan review costs associated with amended producer responsibility plans and any related supplemental work. Thus, special fund revenues continue to fully offset MDE’s expenditures in the out-years.

State Agencies as Consumers of Affected Products

State expenditures (multiple fund types) could increase, likely not until fiscal 2028, due to any increase in the price to purchase packaging materials that may result from the bill.

However, the magnitude of any such increase in costs is unknown and depends largely on the specifics of the approved producer responsibility plans.

Penalty Provisions

Special fund revenues to the State Recycling Trust Fund may increase minimally, likely not before fiscal 2026, from any penalties collected for violations of the bill. The application of existing criminal penalty provisions to violations of the bill is not anticipated to materially affect State incarceration expenditures.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local expenditures likely increase, potentially significantly for some local governments, in fiscal 2025 and/or 2026 to develop and file a feasibility plan with MDE by December 1, 2025. The feasibility plans must prioritize the sale of recycled packaging materials back to manufacturers that have a manufacturing facility in the State. Although the costs to develop the plans likely vary by jurisdiction, to the extent that a local jurisdiction must hire a consultant to develop the plan, local expenditures likely increase by at least \$100,000, and potentially significantly more. The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) estimates that costs to develop the feasibility plan could total hundreds of thousands of dollars depending on the county. MACo also notes that the December 1, 2025 deadline will be challenging to meet. To the extent that the plans must be updated in the future, local expenditures may increase in future years as well.

Additionally, the bill likely affects recycling streams, which are often managed by local governments. This change means local revenues and expenditures are likely affected, although the overall impact on local jurisdictions depends largely on the content of the producer responsibility plans, which cannot be predicted. Even so, local revenues likely increase from reimbursements from producers to offset local costs to collect, transport, and process packaging materials that are listed under a producer responsibility plan. Local governments may also benefit from the diversion of packaging materials from landfills and an increase in recycling rates, which assists counties in meeting their mandatory recycling rates under MRA.

Similar to the impact described above at the State level, expenditures for local governments as consumers of packaging materials may increase, likely not until fiscal 2028.

The application of existing criminal penalty provisions to violations of the bill is not anticipated to materially affect local incarceration expenditures.

Small Business Effect: Although it is anticipated that the bill primarily affects larger businesses that meet the applicable minimum gross revenue and tonnage of packaging materials (specified under the definition of “producer,”) the bill results in significant additional operational responsibilities, and potentially significant costs, for affected

producers that are small businesses to develop and implement producer responsibility plans for packaging materials. Additionally, similar to the impact described above at the State and local levels, there could be an increase in costs for small businesses as consumers of packaging materials. On the other hand, the bill's performance goals could incentivize the development of small businesses in the State that recycle packaging materials or that supply raw materials used to manufacture compliant packaging materials.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 222 and HB 284 of 2023; and HB 307 and SB 292 of 2022.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Environmental Service; Calvert, Howard, and Prince George's counties; Maryland Association of Counties; Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority; City of Annapolis; Maryland Municipal League; Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Office of the Public Defender; Maryland Department of the Environment; Department of General Services; Department of Legislative Services

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