

HOUSE BILL 164

M3, P2
HB 338/25 – ENT

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0661

By: **Delegates Lehman, Guyton, Ruth, and Terrasa**

Requested: July 29, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 14, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Buildings and State Highways – Collection and Disposal of Yard Waste**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from disposing of yard waste collected on the
4 grounds of a State building or State highway in a certain container; requiring a
5 person to collect yard waste on the grounds of a State building or State highway in
6 a certain container; requiring all yard waste collected on the grounds of a State
7 building or State highway to be disposed of in a certain manner under certain
8 circumstances; and generally relating to the collection and disposal of yard waste
9 from the grounds of State buildings and State highways.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – State Finance and Procurement

12 Section 2–1001 and 2–1002 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10. Collection and
13 Disposal of Yard Waste”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

19 **SUBTITLE 10. COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **2-1001.**

2 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
3 INDICATED.

4 (B) "NATURAL WOOD WASTE RECYCLING FACILITY" HAS THE MEANING
5 STATED IN § 9-1701 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE.

6 (C) "ORGANICS RECYCLING FACILITY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §
7 9-1701 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE.

8 (D) (1) "STATE BUILDING" MEANS A BUILDING, A STRUCTURE, OR AN
9 IMPROVED AREA THAT IS:

10 (I) OWNED BY THE STATE; OR

11 (II) CONSTRUCTED FOR LEASE BY THE STATE.

12 (2) "STATE BUILDING" INCLUDES:

13 (I) AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE
14 STATE, INCLUDING PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION;

15 (II) A PUBLIC MASS TRANSPORTATION ACCOMMODATION, SUCH
16 AS A TERMINAL OR STATION, THAT IS SUPPORTED BY STATE FUNDS; AND

17 (III) AN IMPROVEMENT OF A PUBLIC AREA USED FOR
18 GATHERING OR AMUSEMENT, INCLUDING A STATE PARK, RECREATION CENTER, OR
19 SIMILAR AREA.

20 (E) (1) "STATE HIGHWAY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 8-101 OF THE
21 TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

22 (2) "STATE HIGHWAY" INCLUDES ANY LAND OWNED BY THE STATE
23 THAT IS ADJACENT TO A STATE HIGHWAY.

24 (F) (1) "YARD WASTE" MEANS ORGANIC PLANT WASTE DERIVED FROM
25 GARDENING, LANDSCAPING, AND TREE TRIMMING ACTIVITIES.

26 (2) "YARD WASTE" INCLUDES LEAVES, GARDEN WASTE, LAWN
27 CUTTINGS, WEEDS, AND PRUNINGS.

28 **2-1002.**

1 **(A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**
2 **THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A PERSON WHO:**

3 **(I) IS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE WHO COLLECTS YARD**
4 **WASTE ON THE GROUNDS OF A STATE BUILDING OR STATE HIGHWAY AS PART OF**
5 **THAT PERSON'S EMPLOYMENT; OR**

6 **(II) CONTRACTS WITH THE STATE TO PROVIDE SERVICES ON**
7 **THE GROUNDS OF A STATE BUILDING OR STATE HIGHWAY, INCLUDING THE**
8 **COLLECTION OF YARD WASTE.**

9 **(2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A PERSON WHO IS DISPOSING**
10 **OF:**

11 **(I) NOXIOUS WEEDS, AS DESIGNATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**
12 **AGRICULTURE; OR**

13 **(II) INVASIVE SPECIES.**

14 **(B) A PERSON MAY NOT DISPOSE OF YARD WASTE COLLECTED ON THE**
15 **GROUNDS OF A STATE BUILDING OR STATE HIGHWAY IN A SINGLE-USE PLASTIC**
16 **CONTAINER.**

17 **(C) A PERSON SHALL COLLECT YARD WASTE ON THE GROUNDS OF A STATE**
18 **BUILDING OR STATE HIGHWAY IN A CONTAINER THAT:**

19 **(1) WILL NOT BE DISCARDED WITH THE YARD WASTE; OR**

20 **(2) IS A COMPOSTABLE PAPER BAG.**

21 **(D) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY IF A PERSON COLLECTS YARD**
22 **WASTE AT A LOCATION THAT IS WITHIN A 30-MILE RADIUS OF A FACILITY THAT:**

23 **(I) IS IDENTIFIED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
24 **SUBSECTION; AND**

25 **(II) 1. HAS THE CAPACITY TO ACCEPT ALL OF THE PERSON'S**
26 **YARD WASTE; AND**

27 **2. IS WILLING TO ACCEPT ALL OF THE PERSON'S YARD**
28 **WASTE.**

29 **(2) ALL YARD WASTE COLLECTED ON THE GROUNDS OF A STATE**
30 **BUILDING OR STATE HIGHWAY SHALL BE DISPOSED OF AT:**

1 (I) AN ORGANICS RECYCLING FACILITY LOCATED IN THE
2 STATE;

3 (II) A NATURAL WOOD WASTE RECYCLING FACILITY LOCATED IN
4 THE STATE; OR

5 (III) A STATE FACILITY WITH THE ON-SITE CAPACITY TO CREATE
6 MULCH OR SOIL AMENDMENTS.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.