



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 354

**Solid Waste Management – Personal Cleansing Products Provided at Lodging Establishments
– Prohibition**

Chair Davis, Vice Chair Dumais, members of Economic Matters, thank you for considering HB 354. HB 354 is part of the effort to reduce single-use plastics by addressing those tiny bottles you get in the bathrooms of hotels. Under HB 354, establishments with over 51 rooms would move from the single use toiletry bottles to bulk dispensers.

Many hotels are going in this direction. I'm sure a lot of you have already seen these bulk dispensers in your rooms here in Annapolis. Marriott International, headquartered in District 16, which I represent, has been a worldwide leader in this area. By December of this year, Marriott expects most of its hotels to have switched to bulk amenities as part of its sustainability initiative. That is anticipated to prevent about 500 million tiny bottles from going to landfills around the world – about 1.7 million pounds of plastic. Just from Marriott.

We have a massive plastics problem in our country. Much of these plastics end up as litter in our neighborhoods and oceans, and ultimately in landfills or incinerators. HB 354 is one more step in addressing this problem, leading to a cleaner state and planet.

A couple of notes about the bill:

- First, it applies only to establishments of 51 rooms or more. This is to make sure we aren't burdening the smaller establishments, the VRBOs, etc.
- Second, it starts in January 2023, giving establishments almost 3 years to comply.
- Third, it applies only to shampoo, conditioner and body wash. There has been a lot of study and scientific research that has gone into determining which products and what size. I had initially wanted to include lotion, but was told the science wasn't there yet, so limited the bill to the 3 products that have been studied.
- Fourth, the bill gives the establishment the flexibility to determine what they are replacing the tiny plastic bottles with. It enables different properties, different brands, to create their own solutions.
- Fifth, it gets out in front and standardizes a requirement for the whole state. We are seeing different jurisdictions do different things to address our plastics problem. This creates one standard for all establishments in Maryland with more than 51 rooms.

- Finally, this bill is identical to the law in California. The hospitality industry played a large role in crafting that legislation and did not oppose it there. When I spoke with the Maryland Hotel & Lodging Association this fall, they said if our bill was the same as California's they might support, but they certainly would not oppose.

Thank you for your time. I hope you give HB 354 a favorable report.