



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Unfavorable

House Bill 988

Environment – Business Recycling Reporting Requirements

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 4,500 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees and families.

House Bill 988 requires businesses to report specified information related to their recycling activity. While the intent of the legislation is to assist counties in calculating recycling rates, requiring businesses to report in the manner outlined in this legislation is not feasible and will impose requirements on businesses they would be unable to achieve. First, most businesses cannot collect information relative to the weight of their recyclable materials. Waste collection containers traditionally reflect volume, not weight. Furthermore, while containers reflect volume, the volume utilized by a business with respect to their container is not consistent and is dependent on a number of factors that a business cannot control or calculate. Finally, collection of recyclables is not business specific. It is common for collection vehicles to pick up recyclable materials from multiple locations making it impossible to define the volume or tonnage of recyclables from any single given business.

Recycling facilities in Maryland currently report information to the counties to help in calculating recycling rates. The facilities are best situated to estimate volumes and tonnage of recycling materials. Further, individual counties have already developed working relationships with businesses to report information. Creating a one size fits all approach to reporting fails to recognize that waste and recycling collection and processing – both residential and commercial – is inherently local.

HB 988 would place undue burden and regulation on the business community. For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **Unfavorable Report** on House Bill 988.