



Bill No: HB 988—Environment—Business Recycling Reporting Requirements
Committee: Environment & Transportation
Date: 2/26/2020
Position: Oppose

The Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA) opposes HB 988. AOBA's members own or manage more than 23 million square feet of commercial office space and 133,000 apartment rental units in Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

HB 988 requires a commercial entity that privately contracts for waste removal or recycling services to submit a recycling report, approved the County, on or before March 1 of each year. The recycling report must include the total amount by weight, of solid waste generated by the business and the amount and types of materials recycled.

AOBA appreciates the intent of HB 988, in fact AOBA members already comply with reporting mandates in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. However, this bill is different from the reporting currently required in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. In Montgomery County, the waste removal and recycling services are authorized to complete the form on behalf of members. The Prince George's County form contains a worksheet on estimated weight of recycled materials. This bill places a new and infeasible mandate upon the industry. While apartment communities collect refuse and recycling, we cannot certify the "type" of items that were recycled because recycling is gathered and co-mingled by residents. Housing Providers are also unaware of the weight of solid waste generated by residents, placed in public containers by residents and removed by a third-party service.

The industry is concerned that housing providers may be penalized, despite best efforts, for being unable to provide the information required by the State. As a result of this bill, would every apartment community in the State have to place weigh-scales on their properties?

For these reasons AOBA urges an unfavorable report on HB 988.

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