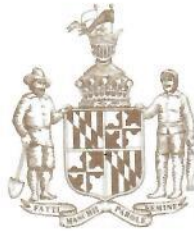


STEPHANIE SMITH  
Legislative District 45  
Baltimore City

Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

House Chair  
Baltimore City Delegation



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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 988- Environment- Business Recycling Reporting Requirements

Hearing: February 26, 2020

Chairman Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Under the Maryland Recycling Act, all jurisdictions with populations over 150,000 should meet a 35 percent recycling rate. The statewide goal is 55 percent by the year 2020. Currently, the state of Maryland is falling short and this is very likely due to an absence of data transparency about current rates or recycling. House Bill 988 seeks to improve the reported local recycling rates and overall state rate by requiring each business that generated recyclable materials to submit a recycling report to the county where the recyclable materials were generated by March 1 each year. The report must be on a form provided by the county and include specified information for the immediately preceding calendar year. The bill establishes a civil penalty for a business that violates the reporting requirement. An enforcement unit, officer, or official of a county, municipality, or other local government may enforce the bill; any penalties collected are paid to the local entity that brought the enforcement action. The bill also requires (instead of authorizes) a county to require specified property and building owners to report to the county on recycling activities. Currently, Montgomery County and Prince George's County require business recycling reporting.

Under the bill, a county must require the following entities to report to the county on recycling activities in accordance with the bill's provisions: (1) a property owner or manager of an apartment building or a council of unit owners of a condominium that provides for recycling for the residents of the dwelling units in accordance with current law and (2) an office building owner or a tenant of an office building that provides for recycling for the tenants of office building in accordance with current law.

HB988 will provide more recycling data transparency to enable the state, counties, and localities to more coherently plan for their solid waste management investments. Also, every Maryland business will have a clear, consistent and predictable recycling reporting expectation throughout the state. For the foregoing reason, I respectfully urge the Committee to vote favorably on HB988.

Sincerely,

Delegate Stephanie Smith