



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 1105

Income Tax - Credit for Residential Composting and Pickup Services

DATE: MARCH 5, 2020

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) supports HB 1105. This bill would provide a credit against the State income tax for up to \$200 of the cost of composting equipment intended for use in an individual's residence and the expenses paid for residential composting pick up services.

Lawn fertilizers can contribute to nutrient pollution runoff into streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. Compost is the best alternative to water-soluble chemical fertilizers for lawns and gardens. Nutrient and mineral-rich compost improves the productivity and health of the soil, increases rainfall and runoff absorption, and provides nitrogen to plants. A compost container may help speed up the decomposition process to create usable compost from items such as vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, egg shells, wilted flowers, raked leaves and grass clippings.

The legislation's tax credit for composting equipment or composting pick up services may encourage more Maryland residents to compost. Access to compost supports use of compost in place of fertilizers, a transition that contributes to the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

For these reasons, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation recommends a FAVORABLE report on HB 1105 from the Ways and Means Committee. For more information please contact Robin Clark Eilenberg, Staff Attorney, at 443.482.2165 or reilenberg@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.