



SB483 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT - ORGANICS RECYCLING AND WASTE DIVERSION - FOOD RESIDUALS

February 10, 2021

EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **SB483 Solid Waste Management - Organics Recycling and Waste Diversion - Food Residuals**. This bill requires certain generators of large quantities of “food residuals” to separate the food residuals from other solid waste and ensure that the food residuals are diverted from final disposal in a refuse disposal system, as specified. The implementation timeline for this requirement is staggered, based on weekly tonnages of food residuals, beginning January 1, 2023. Affected generators may apply for a waiver. The Maryland Department of the Environment must establish related guidelines and mapping systems as well as a plan to implement the bill, as specified. Finally, the bill establishes several reporting requirements and civil penalties for violations.

This legislation is an unfunded mandate that would result in an expenditure of approximately \$2 million per year, inclusive of additional staffing, equipment, storage, transport, and disposal costs. AACPS would be required to establish, equip, staff, manage, and pay for the various elements and components required to comply with this legislation. Specifically, new storage containers and space would be required both inside and outside of each AACPS school and office facility. Additionally, additional staffing would be needed in Food and Nutrition Services to perform the requisite tasks required to disaggregate, store, transport, and dispose of food residuals. AACPS would further be required to enter into new contractual service agreements for the proper transport and disposal costs associated with food residuals on a daily basis since long-term storage could lead to increased pest activity and nuisance animals, thus necessitating additional precautions and costs associated with enhanced integrated pest management plans.

AACPS is also concerned with the equity impacts of this proposed legislation. Costs associated with complying with this legislation would potentially lead to increases in breakfast and lunch meal prices for students as well as diversion of revenue from other critical areas such as instructional or student support activities designed to support the AACPS Strategic Plan and enhance educational equity.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on SB483.