



POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 1114 – Illegal Dumping and Litter Control Law – Yard Waste – Disposal on Highways

Position: SUPPORT W/ AMENDMENTS **Date:** March 30, 2021

Contact: Adrian R. Gardner, General Counsel

What The Bill Does: This bill would add “yard waste” to the list of materials prohibited from being dumped in public parks and on highways, and also authorize civil fines and mandatory removal for violations established at trial.

Why We Support: As the steward of more than 52,000 acres of parkland situated within our bi-county region, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“Commission”) favors employing a wide array of public policies intended to protect the quality and character of the properties we hold in trust for Maryland communities.

Dumping in Commission parks is an ongoing battle. Yard waste dumped on and near park property is problematic because of the variety of neighboring properties, including highways, that allow for easy access and opportunity for undetected illegal dumping. Even though yard waste consists mostly of natural material, it has the potential to destroy natural ecosystems and creates eyesores nevertheless.

The bill would provide an additional tool to prohibit dumping and allow the Commission to remediate yard waste dumped on park property by holding the violator responsible for removal or reimbursement to the Commission for costs incurred to remove.

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