



House Bill 217

Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation
Committee

Date: February 2, 2022

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The Maryland Association of Counties **SUPPORTS** HB 217. The bill would establish a task force to review and update the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), providing an avenue for sensible changes.

The MRA is an important piece of state policy that outlines waste diversion and recycling efforts at the state and local level. Periodic updates to the Act are important to maintaining the relevance and effectiveness of the policy. HB 217 establishes a well-balanced task force charged with examining the MRA for potential updates. The task force would be made up of representatives from state and local government as well as the waste industry.

In Maryland, county governments are the principal actors in achieving the State's recycling goals. Counties operate the entire range of solid waste facilities, including recycling centers and other facilities. Counties actively promote to residents the importance of recycling and deliver the collection infrastructure that enables widespread resident participation. Even as recycling programs globally face challenges with back-end markets and other system shocks from outside Maryland, it is county governments who lead Maryland's response to continue efforts toward our shared goals. HB 217 recognizes this central role and brings county perspectives to these deliberations.

HB 217 outlines a practical approach to updating the Maryland Recycling Act. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to give HB 217 a **FAVORABLE** report.

