



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Unfavorable

House Bill 700

Environment – Products and Packaging – Labeling, Marketing, and Advertising for Recycling

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Friday, February 18, 2022

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,500 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

HB 700 prohibits a person or business from selling, distributing or importing in the State any product of packaging that is labeled with a recycling symbol that could be deemed as untruthful, deceptive or misleading. While the intent of this legislation is just and is tackling a very real issue, HB 700 places almost the entirety of the burden on businesses that in many cases do not retain any control over what recycling symbols are placed on products and packaging. The nature of the flow of goods crosses state lines and many of these products are produced elsewhere. HB 700 stands to place a burden on Maryland businesses without addressing the source of the product being manufactured in another state which may not have different requirements or none at all.

Currently, Maryland requires that these products be labeled with a marker identifying its recyclability. It would stand to reason that a better approach to this legislation, and one that doesn't increase burden and confusion for Maryland's businesses, would be to remove the existing label requirement instead of prohibiting the misuse of an extremely confusing set of symbols that most of the public has very little to any knowledge of.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on HB 700.

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