



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

House Bill 109

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

Position: Support

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: March 30, 2023

From: Gabrielle Leach

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 109. This bill would establish the Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland with the purpose of reviewing the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA), studying the recycling and waste systems in Maryland, and making recommendations on updating the MRA and the feasibility of implementing regional recycling and waste disposal facilities.

House Bill 109 could be a valuable resource for municipalities, private companies, and other organizations that want to understand and expand their recycling capabilities. These findings could help organizations better understand the recommendations on waste diversion and how that impacts reduction in greenhouse gas reduction goals as well as the feasibility of implementing regional recycling and waste disposal facilities. With that understanding, municipalities, private companies, and other organizations could take steps to help counties increase their recycling rates subject to the MRA.

House Bill 109 also helps define “recyclable materials” as those materials that would otherwise become solid waste for disposal in a refuse disposal system and may be collected, separated, composted, or processed and returned to the marketplace in the form of raw materials or products. The bill also defines “solid waste stream” as garbage or refuse that would, unless recycled, be disposed of in a refuse disposal system and includes organic material capable of being composted that is not composted in accordance with MDE’s composting facility regulations.

MDE currently collects data from counties on non-MRA recycling and publishes the tonnage of all MRA and non-MRA materials reported as recycled in the annual Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Report. MDE has also established metrics and corresponding voluntary statewide goals to be achieved by 2035, which allow MDE to measure the state’s achievement of its sustainable material management goals.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 109.