



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**BILL:** House Bill 109 – Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Love

**HEARING DATE:** February 22, 2023

**COMMITTEE:** Environment and Transportation

**CONTACT:** Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

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**POSITION:** SUPPORT

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The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 109 – Task Force on Recycling Policy and Recycling and Waste Systems in Maryland**, which aims to establish a Task Force on Recycling Policy and Waste Systems in Maryland whose mandates are to review the Maryland Recycling Act (MRA) and provide recommendations to update it, look at recycling and waste systems in the State and study the feasibility of having regional recycling and waste disposal facilities.

The dynamic nature of solid waste generation by Counties in the State of Maryland requires that the MRA is attuned to current waste management challenges and opportunities to help achieve the State's overall recycling and greenhouse gas emission reduction target. MRA reporting by local governments, for example, needs to be revisited in light of the changing local waste composition and volume to best capture emerging recyclable, compostable and residual streams. It has been quite some time since the MRA guidelines were updated and the bill seeks to accomplish this effort. This can be achieved by creating a Task Force whose principal duty is to review the MRA and identify areas for improvement/amendments. Source reduction efforts have historically been difficult to measure and because the list of acceptable source reduction initiatives is outdated, having the Task Force review and make innovative recommendations in this aspect will be a significant step.

The Task Force will also be tasked to study existing recycling and waste systems in Maryland including potential siting of new facilities and reuse of closed facilities. In this regard, it is important to assess the existing capacity and resources of local governments and identify approaches for equitable cost-sharing opportunities in managing local and regional facilities. In the case of Prince George's County, a

regional approach could complement the County's infrastructures, if for example, the facility is located near North or far South County. It could pave the way for solid waste infrastructures to be accessible to residents/stakeholders across economic and social classes and further reduce costs associated with recycling and residual disposal.

HB 109 is a win for local governments in terms of reassessing existing and emerging waste streams and finding ways to identify and develop markets to include materials that pose significant challenge in reuse and recycling.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 109** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.