



**MARYLAND STATE
LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION**

150 E Main Street, Suite 104, Westminster, MD 21157

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair
Members, House Environment and Transportation Committee
The Honorable Jen Terrasa

FROM: J. Steven Wise
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DATE: March 9, 2023

RE: **OPPOSE** – House Bill 1089 – *Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program*

The Maryland State Licensed Beverage Association (MSLBA), which consists of approximately 800 Maryland businesses holding alcoholic beverage licenses (restaurants, bars, taverns, and package stores), **opposes** House Bill 1089.

This legislation would require retailers, such as package stores, to accept redeemable beverage containers at their place of business and require that these stores maintain a “dedicated area” to store the returned containers. In addition, they must pay the person redeeming the container in cash.

The package stores owned by our members are typically 3,000 to 5,000 square feet in size. The majority of this square footage is dedicated to shelving, sales and consumer transactions, coolers, walk-in boxes, and storage area for product that has yet to be put on the shelf. House Bill 1089 would require each retailer to set aside already limited space in their stores as the “dedicated area” for storage of returned containers. These stores are simply not equipped to accommodate storage of redeemable containers, and the space needed to do so would be substantial, considering that a retailer must accept any containers that are brought in, unless they are rejected due to their condition.

Furthermore, a retailer will inevitably be left holding returned containers, which are later rejected, by a redemption facility, adding to the concerns over the space required to carry out the provisions of House Bill 1089.

For these reasons, MSLBA respectfully requests that the Committee give this legislation an unfavorable report.