



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary Designate
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

February 8, 2023

The Honorable C. T. Wilson, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 91 – Environment - Recycling - Hotels

Dear Chair Wilson and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) would like to provide information on House Bill 91. HB 91 would require an owner, operator, or manager of a hotel to provide recycling for hotel guests, such as the collection of recyclable materials from guest and common areas of the hotel, as well as establish oversight authority for local jurisdictions.

Under the Maryland Recycling Act, each county must plan for and achieve a minimum recycling rate of either 20 or 35 percent, depending on population. In most counties, businesses are not required to recycle or report recycling activities to the county, but many do so voluntarily. The Department has established an “Annual Business Recycling Reporting Survey” form that allows businesses to voluntarily report their recycling activities to their resident counties so that these efforts can be captured in the counties’ recycling rates. If House Bill 91 passes, the increase in commercial property recycling could assist counties in meeting their mandatory recycling rates under the Act.

Under HB 164 of 2021 (Department of the Environment – Office of Recycling – Recycling Market Development), MDE can conduct targeted training to the hotel industry and help the industry establish relationships with recycling companies, downstream recycling markets, and organizations that have well established recycling programs. For example, MDE could attend industry conferences or invite hotel industry representatives to webinars to facilitate these interactions. MDE staff will also be available to answer questions from industry representatives during normal business hours.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor House Bill 91 during the Committee’s deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-453-3235 or by e-mail at Gabrielle.Leach@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Leach

Gabrielle Leach
Deputy Director, Legislative and Intergovernmental Relations

Cc: The Honorable Marlon Amprey
Tyler Abbott, Director, Land and Material Administration