



Testimony on: SB0325 - Maryland Paint Stewardship
Bill Sponsor: Senators Brooks and West
Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment
Organization: Less Plastic Please
Submitting: Liz Feighner
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 6, 2024

[Less Plastic Please](#) is a Howard County based grassroots organization representing more than 200 subscribers. We are also a partner of the [Zero Waste Team](#) of [Howard County Sierra Club](#) and a [Beyond Plastics](#) Affiliate

Less Plastic Please supports SB0325, a bill that operates on the sound principle that producers of products such as household hazardous waste, should take responsibility for the end-of-life management of their products. According to the Product Stewardship Institute, about 10% of latex and oil-based paint is leftover or unused. Leftover paint is the costliest component of household hazardous waste management for local governments. The paint stewardship program will save money for local governments and prevent household hazardous waste from ending up in landfills.

Eighteen counties, including Howard County, and the City of Baltimore offer some paint collection to their residents, but the frequency and convenience of drop-off locations vary. Eleven counties offer latex paint collection, 19 counties offer oil-based paint collection, and five counties – Dorchester, Frederick, Garrett, Somerset, and Washington – have no paint collection or recycling. Under the Paint Stewardship Program, drop-off sites would be conveniently located at retailers where paint is sold and at special events; pick-up service for large quantities would also be arranged. All counties would realize an increase in reuse and recycling of paint and a reduction in waste. Residents of Howard County would no longer have to drive up to 20 miles to the Alpha Ridge Landfill on Saturdays only to recycle paint.

SB0325 requires a producer of architectural paint sold at a retail store in Maryland to submit, by July 1, 2025, a plan for the establishment of a Paint Stewardship Program to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE); implement the program within six months after approval; and submit annual reports to MDE. The bill establishes a uniform paint stewardship assessment to cover program costs and a prohibition on the sale of architectural paint unless the producer or its representative is implementing an approved paint stewardship program.

SB0325 will save money for local governments when budgets are very tight, foster reuse of paint products creating a circular paint economy, and reduce a waste management challenge.

We support SB0325 and recommend a FAVORABLE report in committee.

Submitted by Liz Feighner

[Less Plastic Please](#)

LessPlasticPleaseHoCo@gmail.com