



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

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March 26, 2024

**BILL NUMBER: House Bill 173 – Third Reader**

**SHORT TITLE: State Buildings and State Highways-Collection of Yard Waste**

**DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT**

**EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION**

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This legislation serves to improve the disposal methods of yard waste generated in the course of gardening, landscaping, and tree trimming activities occurring on the grounds of state facilities through the prohibition of single-use plastic containers for such purposes. The Department of Natural Resources supports this effort..

We appreciate the adoption of DNR’s proposed amendments in the House to provide a minor exemption to the disposal of noxious weeds or invasive species – “solarization” is a best practice for the eradication of these types of plants. “Solarization” is the practice of placing these plants in such plastic bags and allowing them to “bake” in the sun, this in turn causes the destruction of the plants including seeds to ensure that there is no further spread of the species.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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Disposing of organic plant waste such as leaves, garden waste, lawn cuttings, weeds, and prunings in single-use plastic containers is generally poor practice in that plastic does not decompose at the same rate as yard waste and prevents effective composting of organic material.

**BILL EXPLANATION**

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This bill would prohibit a person from disposing of yard waste collected on the grounds of a State building or State highway in a certain container; require a person to collect yard waste on the grounds of a State building or State highway in a certain container; and generally relates to the collection of yard waste on the grounds of State buildings and State highways.

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