

BENJAMIN BROOKS
Legislative District 10
Baltimore County

Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee

Energy Subcommittee

Chair, Joint Electric Universal
Service Program Workgroup



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 303
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3606 · 301-858-3606
800-492-7122 Ext. 3606
Benjamin.Brooks@senate.state.md.us

District Office
Windsor Mill Office
8419 Liberty Road, Suite B
Windsor Mill, Maryland 21244
410-496-4037

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB325 **Maryland Paint Stewardship**

Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
February 6, 2024

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on Senate Bill 325— Maryland Paint Stewardship. The goal of this bill is to implement a self-sufficient paint stewardship program in our State which will benefit paint retailers, lower local government spending, and help consumers protect the environment.

Each year, Maryland accumulates 1.3 million gallons of unused paint and local authorities are responsible for managing Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) collection events and/or facilities. Currently, 19 Counties collect oil paint, 11 of which also collect latex paint. Four counties: Washington, Somerset, Garrett, and Dorchester Counties offer no postconsumer paint collection services at all. Collecting post-consumer paint comes at an immense cost to local governments, with HHW processing costing upwards of \$100,000 a year for Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties. Baltimore City alone spends \$10,500 to \$24,000 per month on HHW, of which paint is a substantial portion. Despite these costs, collections are infrequent with some localities doing collections as little as once a year.

SB325 creates a paint stewardship program to more efficiently collect and manage paint waste at no cost to the State. The bill states that by July 1st, producers of paint sold at retail establishments in Maryland will have to prepare a plan for statewide collection of paint so that at least 90% of Maryland residents will have a collection site within 15 miles of their homes with additional sites in urban areas. The plan may also provide that retail stores are designated as paint collection sites, so long as the designated stores volunteer to participate. This allows for paint collections to happen at locations where consumers buy paint— attracting potential shoppers to these retailers. Paint stewardship programs have already been implemented in ten States and Washington D.C and have collected 70.6 million gallons of post-consumer paint. Additionally, 70% of these collection sites are at voluntary retail locations.

How will the collection and recycling costs be handled? SB325 requires that every can of paint sold come with a small Paint Stewardship assessment fee. The value of this fee would be determined by an independent financial auditor designated by the Department of the Environment and would ensure the costs of the stewardship program are covered but not

exceeded. In other States with a similar program, the fee for a gallon or less of paint averages between \$0.30 and \$0.80 cents per gallon. With most gallons of paint retailing between \$25-\$40 a can, this fee would be a minuscule increase in the total price of paint. Since 2009, these programs have saved local governments approximately \$240 million in transportation and recycling costs.

Last year, the Legislature was close to making this paint stewardship program a reality with SB 260/HB255. In the Senate, the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee gave this program a favorable report as well as the House Economic Matters Committee and the Environment and Transportation Committee. This program was approved in both chambers before it barely missed the deadline for a final vote in the closing days of the 2023 Legislative Session.

SB325 is the exact bill that so many legislators have already lent their support. Let's finish the job and take an important step in helping local communities and businesses protect the environment from paint waste.

For these reasons, I am requesting a favorable report on SB325.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin T. Brooks".

Benjamin Brooks

SB 325

MARYLAND PAINT STEWARDSHIP



\$240 MILLION SAVED

California, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington have paint stewardship programs which has saved local governments millions.

WHAT IS PAINT STEWARDSHIP?

Currently, postconsumer paint is collected as Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) and disposed of by local governments. A paint stewardship program puts this job in the hands of the paint industry— increasing cleanup and lowering costs for local governments.

THE PAINT PLAN FOR MARYLAND

The steps for implementing a paint stewardship program in Maryland



Producers of paint sold at retail establishments will have until July 2025 to come up with a plan to collect paint from Marylanders.



The plan will have to ensure that 90% Marylanders are within 15 miles of a collection site with additional sites in urban areas.



Paint retailers and other organizations will volunteer to collect paint and then dispose of it.

THE LOW COST OF THE PAINT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



In other States with a similar program, the fee for a gallon or less of paint averages between 0.30 and 0.80 cents per gallon. With most gallons of paint retailing between \$25-\$40 a can, this fee would be a miniscule increase in the total price of paint.

62.6 MILLION

Gallons of postconsumer paint have already been recycled by ten states and Washington D.C. at little to no cost to local governments.

WE ALMOST MADE IT HAPPEN!

Last year, an identical bill SB 260 (2023) was nearly approved in both chambers before it barely missed the deadline for a final vote in the closing days of the 2023 Legislative Session. Let's finish the job and take an important step in helping local communities and businesses protect the environment from paint waste.



FAVORABLE

SB 260 received a 8-3 favorable vote in the Energy, Education, and the Environment Committee.



FAVORABLE

SB 260 received a 17-6 favorable vote in the Environment and Transportation Committee.



APPROVED

SB 260 was approved in both the House of Delegates and the Senate but did not advance before Sine Die.