



The Maryland Department of the Environment

Secretary Serena McIlwain

SB 901

Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility Plans

Position: Support with Amendments
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Date: February 18, 2025
From: Leslie Gray, Government Relations Officer

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS SB 901 WITH AMENDMENTS.**

Bill Summary

Senate Bill 901 would establish a Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Program in Maryland. The program would require certain producers of packaging materials, individually or as part of a producer responsibility organization (PRO), to submit a certain packaging materials producer responsibility plan to MDE for review and approval. The PRO would also collect fees from producers, which would be used to cover their administrative costs, certain recycling activity costs, MDE's cost to administer the program, and the costs to prepare a needs assessment.

Position Rationale

EPR programs are essential in strengthening public-private partnerships and involving producers in waste management solutions. SB 901 represents a significant investment in Maryland's recycling infrastructure that is projected to increase the packaging recycling rate from 35% to 50%, capture \$202 million in material value (a \$53 million increase), reduce over 1 million metric tons of CO₂ emissions, and create 2,075 new jobs—all without impacting state capital or operational budgets.

Maryland faces a landfill crisis, with only 22-35 years of permitted capacity that is not fully built and is very localized. To ensure Maryland creates a more effective EPR program, MDE plans to work with the bill's sponsors to propose amendments that address program funding and scope, and provide regulatory clarity.

For the reasons detailed above MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for SB 901.