



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

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March 25, 2025

**BILL NUMBER: House Bill 338 – Third Reader**

**SHORT TITLE: State Buildings and State Highways - Collection and Disposal 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 recyclable 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. It also requires that yard waste collected on the grounds of a state building or state highway be disposed of at in-state organics recycling facilities, natural wood waste recycling facilities, or state facilities with the on-site capacity to create mulch or soil amendments. The Department of Natural Resources supports this effort.

### **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; require all yard waste collected on the grounds of a State building or State highway to be disposed of in a certain manner, provides an exemption for noxious weeds or invasive species; and generally relates to the collection and disposal of yard waste on the grounds of State buildings and State highways.

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