



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 18, 2025

Committee: Senate – Education, Energy, and Environment

Bill: SB901 - Environment - Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility Plans

Position: *Favorable*

Reason for Position:

On behalf of the Maryland Municipal League (MML), representing 161 local governments across the state, we respectfully submit this testimony in **support** of Senate Bill 901. This bill presents a significant opportunity for municipalities by addressing the growing costs and challenges associated with packaging waste and recycling programs. We believe this legislation will provide vital financial relief to local governments and promote a more sustainable and efficient waste management system.

Senate Bill 901 requires producers of packaging materials to submit responsibility plans that outline how they will manage the lifecycle of their products, including their recycling and disposal. This provision is a key benefit for municipalities as it ensures that producers, who create the packaging waste, will contribute financially to the costs associated with recycling. Local governments will be reimbursed for the expenses incurred in collecting, transporting, and processing these materials, which helps alleviate the financial burden on municipal budgets. As local governments are often constrained by tight budgets and limited resources, the financial relief provided by SB 901 will allow municipalities to focus more on other critical services and initiatives. The bill not only reduces the fiscal strain of waste management but also promotes environmental sustainability by holding producers accountable for the packaging waste they generate. The bill includes a provision for a statewide recycling needs assessment, which will help local governments identify areas for improvement in their recycling programs and better align resources with community needs. This long-term support ensures that municipalities will be equipped to enhance their recycling efforts and adapt to future challenges.

The Maryland Municipal League strongly **supports** Senate Bill 901 as it fosters collaboration between municipalities and producers, strengthens local waste management systems, and provides crucial financial support to local governments in managing packaging waste. This bill is a step toward a more sustainable and equitable system that benefits both communities and the environment. For more information, please contact Tyler Alexis Brice, Manager of Advocacy and Public Affairs, at tylerb@mdmunicipal.org or 254-652-8110.

Thank you for your consideration.

The Maryland Municipal League uses its collective voice to advocate, empower and protect the interests of our 160 local governments members and elevates local leadership, delivers impactful solutions for our communities, and builds an inclusive culture for the 2 million Marylanders we serve.