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Written Testimony
House Bill 407 - Environment - Municipal Recycling Plans -
Requirement
Environment and Transportation Committee – February 12, 2025
Support

Background: House Bill 407 would require the largest municipal corporation in each county, beginning on or before January 1, 2026, and every 5 years thereafter, to adopt or update certain recycling plans that provide for a reduction through recycling of a certain percentage of the municipal corporation's solid waste stream by weight under certain circumstances; and require the Department of Planning to identify certain municipal corporations as part of certain population projections.

Written Comments: The Jewish concept of *tikkun olam* means to repair the world in which we live. As the advocacy arm of The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, we represent organizations that work to educate the community on sustainability and make strides towards repairing the world.

During the 2012 Legislative Session, the Baltimore Jewish Council supported HB929 – which required certain counties to implement recycling and waste diversion goals. This was created to ensure that there was a carefully crafted timeline in which these waste goals were implemented.

HB407 seeks to expand on this law by requiring certain large municipalities to also operate in this manner of establishing recycling plans, while also requiring the adopted plans to be revisited on a 5-year basis in an effort to not overburden our municipalities, but to ensure things do not remain stagnant over time.

We believe that this proposed legislation is a proper next step in waste management for our state. **For these reasons, the Baltimore Jewish Councils asks for a favorable report on HB407.**

The Baltimore Jewish Council, a coalition of central Maryland Jewish organizations and congregations, advocates at all levels of government, on a variety of social welfare, economic and religious concerns, to protect and promote the interests of The Associated Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, its agencies and the Greater Baltimore Jewish community.