



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

TESTIMONY

February 14, 2025

Committee: House – Environment and Transportation

Bill: HB 232 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

Position: *Support with Amendment*

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 HB 232 and request that the following amendment be added to the bill.*** We believe that this amendment is critical to ensure that municipalities retain full autonomy over their waste management operations while the state assumes responsibility for locating redemption facilities in a manner that is both transparent and objective and has shared this amendment with the bill sponsor. In particular, we request the inclusion of the following amendment:

Amendment – Section 9-1757.4

- (a) The Department of the Environment shall determine the locations for redemption facilities based on objective criteria, including but not limited to geographic accessibility, service efficiency, economic viability, and environmental impact, with the purpose of optimizing statewide operation of the beverage container redemption program.
- (b) No municipality shall be required, as a condition of the beverage container redemption program, to host, operate, or provide land, facilities, or any other resources for the establishment or operation of any redemption facility.
- (c) Prior to finalizing the locations of redemption facilities, the Department shall consult with affected municipalities to consider any potential impacts on municipal services and existing recycling programs, and to ensure that the selected sites do not impose undue burdens on local jurisdictions.
- (d) The Department is authorized to enter into agreements with private or other state-operated entities for the establishment and operation of redemption facilities, thereby preserving municipal autonomy over local waste management and recycling operations.

Cont.

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This amendment is essential because it clarifies that the state, through the Department of the Environment, will be solely responsible for the strategic placement of redemption facilities using clear, objective criteria. It expressly ensures that municipalities are not burdened with hosting or operating these facilities, thereby protecting local resources and allowing municipal governments to continue focusing on their existing waste collection and recycling programs. We strongly believe that this balanced approach will enhance the effectiveness of the beverage container redemption program while safeguarding the operational integrity and financial viability of municipal recycling efforts. For further inquiries or additional 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, and we look forward to continued collaboration in advancing Maryland's environmental priorities.

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