



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

HB 69

Environment - Plastic Products - Postconsumer Recycled Content Program

Position: Informational

Committee: Environment and Transportation

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From: Leslie Gray, Government Relations Officer

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) offers the following INFORMATIONAL testimony on HB 69.

House Bill 69 would establish a postconsumer recycled content (PCR) program for the following covered products, distributed in Maryland, with some exceptions: plastic beverage containers, rigid plastic used for food containers, and rigid plastic used for cleaning and personal care products. The bill sets minimum postconsumer recycled content percentage requirements for each covered product type that increase over time.

MDE appreciates the intent of the bill, including the PCR goals, but believes the registration and tracking activities should be implemented under a comprehensive Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility Program (EPR) in the coming years. States including California and Colorado that have passed EPR legislation have established an EPR framework which also includes PCR goals and reporting. Maryland currently is pursuing a similar path forward. Through an EPR framework, the registration and tracking would be done by the Producer Responsibility Organization and MDE could focus its resources on program oversight.

MDE hopes that the information above is helpful when considering HB 69.