



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

House Bill 407
Environment - Municipal Recycling Plans - Requirement

Position: Support

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Date: February 12, 2025

From: Leslie Gray, Government Relations Officer

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 407.

The bill would require that beginning in 2026, the largest municipality in each county adopt or update recycling plans to achieve a targeted reduction of their solid waste stream. The reductions would be based on the total population as determined by the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). MDE understands that MDP is able to reliably identify the largest municipality in each county using Census estimates without the need to produce a population projection and will be introducing an amendment to remove that requirement. For counties that join forces to create a regional recycling plan, only the largest municipality in the region would need to comply with the reduction requirements.

HB 407 would help the state reach its recycling and waste diversion goals. In 2022, it was estimated that there was approximately 14-22 years of actual landfill capacity and 39 years of permitted capacity in Maryland. Increasing waste diversion will extend the operating lifetime of active landfills and prevent the need to dispose of materials across state lines at increased costs to the state and the environment.

For the reasons detailed above MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 407.