



Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

HEARING DATE: February 12th
BILL NO: HB 407
COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation
POSITION: Favorable with Amendments
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Wilson (443) 721-6789

TITLE: HB 407 - Environment - Municipal Recycling Plans - Requirement

BILL ANALYSIS:

HB 407 includes amendments to the Environment and State Finance and Procurement Articles that would require the largest municipal corporation by population in each county to adopt or update as necessary a recycling plan that meets certain goals and metrics related to reductions in the municipality's solid waste streams by weight. This bill also requires the Maryland Department of Planning to identify the largest municipality in each county through population projections.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) supports HB 407 with amendments to change the method in which MDP identifies the largest municipality in each county from population projections to analysis of Census Estimates. MDP, through HB 272/SB 236, is attempting to adjust the Department's responsibility to produce population projections for all municipalities to simply producing them upon the request of a municipality. This change would give MDP time and more attention to focus on other statutory requirements and Department priorities. If the Department is successful in adjusting this responsibility it would make the fulfillment of identifying the largest municipalities in each county as currently written in HB 407 difficult to realize. The Maryland State Data Center, which is hosted within MDP, is designated by the U.S. Census Bureau as the repository and service center for Census data pertaining to the State which includes Census Estimates. Census Estimates are readily available data points that MDP is confident in the accuracy of and are appropriate to use for the identification of the largest municipalities. With this, MDP recommends amending all references in the bill of conducting population projections to analyzing Census Estimates, and staff have drafted what those amendments would read as below.

Adding the requirement to the largest municipalities to adopt and update as necessary a recycling plan is an admirable effort and one that MDP is happy to play a part in realizing. These plans, if executed properly, would play a meaningful role in helping the State realize its carbon reduction and related climate goals. Additionally, the attention to such plans is in alignment with sustainable growth principles which is a key focus of MDP and is a practice that will aid in allowing Maryland to be a State in which all can live and thrive.

Amendment Language:

1. 9-505(F)(1) of the Environment Article reads: "IN THIS SUBSECTION, "LARGEST MUNICIPAL CORPORATION" MEANS THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WITH THE LARGEST POPULATION ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT [DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING PROJECTIONS.] **CENSUS ESTIMATES ANALYZED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING.**
2. 9-505(F)(4) of the Environment Article reads: "IF A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IS NO LONGER THE LARGEST MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AFTER THE MOST RECENT [DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING PROJECTIONS,] **ANALYSIS OF CENSUS ESTIMATES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING,** THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IS NO LONGER SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION.
3. Remove amendments to 5-306 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.