



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

DATE: February 4, 2026

POSITION: Favorable

BILL: SB 342

The Maryland Municipal League (MML) is pleased to offer its strong support for Senate Bill 342, the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program. SB342 establishes a comprehensive and innovative framework aimed at significantly increasing recycling rates for beverage containers while meaningfully reducing litter in communities throughout our state. By introducing a container deposit and refund system, the legislation provides a proven and effective mechanism for encouraging Marylanders to return and recycle beverage containers, thus ensuring these materials are diverted from landfills and roadways and are instead reintegrated into the recycling stream.

This bill represents a meaningful commitment to public cleanliness, environmental sustainability, and the reduction of costs associated with litter management, a central concern for local governments. MML appreciates that the legislation recognizes the important role of municipalities by enabling local governments to participate in the establishment and operation of redemption centers, and by ensuring that funds and performance goals are aligned toward community benefit. These features will help support municipal efforts to keep Maryland's neighborhoods cleaner and safer for residents and visitors alike.

MML applauds the intent and design of SB342, seeing it as a vital tool for advancing the State's environmental goals. The bill promises to provide substantial benefits by reducing municipal litter clean-up costs, supporting recycling education, and fostering partnerships among state, local, and private stakeholders. Importantly, the program is poised to deliver measurable improvements that directly impact the quality of life in the communities our members serve. The Maryland Municipal League thanks the committee for its consideration of this important measure and urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 342. We look forward to partnering with the State and other stakeholders to ensure its successful implementation and to maximize its positive impact for all Marylanders.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

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MML represents 161 local governments and about 2 million Maryland residents.