



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

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SENATE BILL 342
MARYLAND BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING REFUND AND LITTER REDUCTION
PROGRAM
POSITION: FAVORABLE
SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The City of Greenbelt strongly supports Senate Bill 342.

Greenbelt is a community that takes environmental stewardship seriously, and we see the direct, day to day impacts of beverage container litter in our neighborhoods, along roadways, in streams, and throughout our parks. These impacts are not abstract. They translate into higher cleanup costs, increased pressure on public works and parks staff, and avoidable pollution that undermines local stormwater, watershed, and sustainability efforts.

Senate Bill 342 establishes the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program to increase recycling and reuse, reduce litter, and shift the burden of managing beverage container waste away from local governments and taxpayers. For Greenbelt, this type of upstream policy is essential. When the State creates a consistent system that incentivizes redemption and increases recovery rates, municipalities spend less time and fewer resources collecting the same waste repeatedly and can instead direct limited funding toward core community services.

Beverage containers are among the most common forms of litter encountered by municipal maintenance crews. A deposit and refund system has been proven in other states to significantly increase recycling rates while dramatically reducing litter. For a city like Greenbelt, this translates into cleaner parks and neighborhoods, reduced strain on stormwater infrastructure, and measurable savings in local operational costs.

The bill also takes an important step toward aligning responsibility with the producers and distributors that place beverage containers into the marketplace. Local governments currently shoulder the financial and operational burden of litter abatement and recycling contamination. This legislation moves Maryland toward a more equitable and effective system.

For these reasons, the City of Greenbelt respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 342.

For more information, please contact City Manager Josué Salmerón at 301-474-8000 or jsalmeron@greenbeltmd.gov.