



Friday, February 6, 2026

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THE TOWN OF BRENTWOOD STRONGLY SUPPORT A MARYLAND BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING REFUND AND LITTER REDUCTION PROGRAM.

The Town of Brentwood urges you to support the 2026 legislative session HB 331/SB 342, the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program, also known as the Maryland Bottle Bill.

Bottle bills are a proven way to drastically increase the rate of recycling for beverage containers, reducing the need to manufacture virgin bottles and lessening the amount incinerated or landfilled. Two states – Michigan and Oregon – have achieved recycling rates of 90% with a 10-cent deposit. This legislation would reduce plastic pollution and litter, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create jobs through a beverage container deposit program in Maryland with a 10- or 15-cent refundable deposit on metal, glass, and plastic beverage containers, depending on container size.

About 5.5 billion beverage containers are sold annually in Maryland. yet only one in four is recycled. That means more than 4 billion bottles and cans are thrown away every year, piling up in landfills, spewing toxins in incinerators, or polluting our rivers and streams to threaten wildlife and contaminate drinking water. The Bottle Bill will dramatically increase recycling rates and decrease litter and pollution.

The objective of this program is to reduce beverage container litter and plastic pollution. It would add a refundable deposit to the purchase of beverage containers. The deposit is fully refunded when the empty containers are returned to a convenient retailer or other redemption point. The program would be financed and implemented by beverage producers through a nonprofit beverage container stewardship organization, not by the Town or its residents. The Maryland Department of the Environment would establish and oversee the organization with an advisory council providing support. This program would benefit our residents by incentivizing the recycling of plastics; reducing the amount of municipal solid waste that the county must collect and process; and redirecting litter from the Northwest

Branch of the Anacostia River, our parks, and our streets. It also directly supports the state, county, and Brentwood Climate Action Plans.

Programs like this have been operating in 10 U.S. states for decades and are the most effective policy for reducing beverage container litter. With a 10-cent deposit on most containers, it could capture 90% of beverage containers sold in the state annually, diverting an additional 3.6 billion beverage containers annually from landfills, incinerators, and the environment, reducing pollution from littered plastic bottles that break down in the environment and get washed into the Chesapeake Bay. Recent polling has found that more than 90% of Maryland's voting public would support the Bottle Bill.

We urge you to support HB 331/SB 342 or its new reincarnation to create savings for municipalities and local taxpayers, provide cleaner parks and waterways, and reduce beverage container litter and plastic pollution.

Thank you

V. Mayor Jerry Burgess

Town of Brentwood

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