



# CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

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## House Bill 164

### State Buildings and State Highways – Collection and Disposal of Yard Waste

**Date:** March 24, 2026

**To:** Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee

**Position:** **Favorable**

**From:** Gussie Maguire,  
MD Staff Scientist

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS House Bill 164**, which requires that yard waste collected from the grounds of a state building or state highway be collected in a reusable container or compostable paper bag and sent to organics recycling or mulching facilities if facilities with adequate receiving capacity are located within a 30-mile radius.

CBF supports the state's transition away from single-use plastic and diversion of yard waste from landfill disposal. Use of reusable containers or compostable paper bags simplifies and prevents contamination of organic materials recycling and supports Maryland's recycling and diversion goals.

Prohibiting the collection and disposal of state yard waste in single-use plastic containers also helps set a visible example for municipalities, encouraging wider adoption of similar policies to transition away from single-use plastic use in local jurisdictions.

**CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on HB 164.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at [mstegman@cbf.org](mailto:mstegman@cbf.org).

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*The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.*