

HB0164\_CrossOver\_Bill\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV  
03/24/2026  
Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
Frederick, MD 21703

## **TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#/0164 – FAVORABLE**

### **State Buildings and State Highways - Collection and Disposal of Yard Waste**

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of Crossover Bill HB0164, State Buildings and State Highways - Collection and Disposal of Yard Waste**

Proper disposal of yard waste in Maryland is critical because state law prohibits it from landfills, as it accounts for up to 20% of local solid waste. Proper handling prevents nutrient runoff from polluting the [Chesapeake Bay](#), reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and turns organic materials into compost rather than wasting landfill space.<sup>1</sup>

Key reasons for proper disposal include:

- **Environmental Protection:** Leaves and grass clippings entering storm drains contribute to nutrient pollution, causing algae growth that harms fish in the Chesapeake Bay.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** [Maryland law](#) generally prohibits yard waste in landfills, requiring it to be composted or recycled.
- **Lawn & Garden Health:** Leaving grass clippings (grasscycling) acts as free fertilizer, returning valuable nitrogen to the soil.
- **Prevents Flooding & Pests:** Proper disposal stops debris from clogging storm drains, which causes flooding, and eliminates standing water that attracts disease-carrying insects.
- **Sustainability:** Diverting organic material from landfills reduces greenhouse gases and produces beneficial compost.

Methods for proper disposal include backyard composting, utilizing local municipal curbside collection programs, or using designated drop-off sites.

This bill will prohibit a person from disposing of yard waste collected on the grounds of a State building or State highway in single-use plastic container; require a person to collect yard waste on the grounds of a State building or State highway in a container that will not be discarded with the yard waste or in a compostable paper bag; and requires all yard waste collected on the grounds of a State building or State highway to be disposed of in a certain manner under certain circumstances.

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass CrossOver Bill HB0164.**

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<sup>1</sup> Google AI Search “why proper disposal of yard waste is important in Maryland”