

HB 331: Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Brendan Wray - FAVORABLE

February 9, 2026

Chair Korman and Committee Members,

I am in support of HB0331 - Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program. I frequently encounter single-use beverage containers littering Maryland roads, trails, and parks, and I am deeply disappointed that this is the case. A 10-cent or 15-cent deposit on beverage containers would offer a small incentive to take them out of the waste stream and move towards a circular material economy. This incentive to recycle rather than throw away plastic water bottles, aluminum soda cans, and glass beverage bottles will have a dramatic effect on trash and plastic pollution in the state, but in particular in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which is so essential to outdoor recreation and enjoyment of Marylanders.

So far, ten states currently have bottle bills in place. Studies in these states show radically increased recycling rates and corresponding steep reductions in trash pollution. Maryland should join these states. It is estimated that successful bottle bill programs in DC and Maryland would cut the amount of trash in the Anacostia River (part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed) in half, not to mention doing the same in our parks, streets, and neighborhoods.

I urge a Favorable HB 232 committee report and House of Delegates floor vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

Brendan Wray
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