



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

House Bill 92

Environment - Beverage Containers Connected With Plastic Rings - Restriction on Sale

Date: February 4 2026
To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Favorable With Amendment
From: Madeleine Beller,
MD Engagement Coordinator

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENT House Bill 92** which prohibits a person from selling, offering for sale, or distributing for sale beverage containers that are connected to other beverage containers with a plastic ring connector. CBF urges the committee to adopt an amendment to be offered by the bill's sponsor striking the exemption of biodegradable plastics.

There are currently no county facilities across our state that recycle plastic ring connectors. These pieces of trash often find themselves outside of our waste streams and pose risks to humans as well as wildlife. Plastic ring connectors can cause wildlife to become entangled, which may lead to an inability to move, eat, or breathe. Many of our beloved Bay critters; otters, turtles, striped bass, herons, osprey, and even oysters ingest plastic, often in the form of microplastics and nanoplastics.

According to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program, [studies](#) have also shown that microplastics serve as substrates for all three species of *Vibrio* that cause disease in humans and that marine plastics likely facilitate horizontal gene transfer and may disseminate antibiotic resistant genes. [Microplastic ingestion or inhalation can cause a wide range of impacts to human health](#) including development of certain cancers, heart disease, respiratory issues, neurological functionality challenges, as well as impacts to reproductive health.

Confusion often exists among consumers between bio-based and biodegradable plastics and the polymers they are composed of, which are sometimes conflated under the term bioplastics. [Many bioplastics are still made using fossil fuels and technically, even conventional plastics eventually biodegrade, it just takes 500 to 1,000 years.](#) The biodegradation of plastic is a complex process that [results in extensive reworking of the carbon-containing compounds in the plastic by living organisms](#) and there is no distinct timeline for the breakdown of these materials. An amendment to be offered by the bill's sponsor would remove an exemption for biodegradable plastic rings contained in the bill as drafted.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT report on HB 92.

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at 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.