

State of Maryland
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POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

This legislation also creates regulatory inflexibility by mandating the incorporation of specific sections from a single edition of the NFPA Life Safety Code. Embedding fixed references in statute establishes a rigid framework that may quickly become outdated as model codes evolve to reflect new safety data, technologies, and best practices. Maintaining alignment with current standards would then require repeated legislative action, rather than allowing the Commission to update regulations through its established process.

Residential trash and recyclable materials often contain unknown hazardous contents, including lithium-ion batteries, flammable liquids, and items capable of spontaneous combustion. When placed in egress pathways, these materials increase fire risk and contribute to dangerous fuel loads.

House Bill 848 provides no clear enforcement mechanism to limit the volume or duration of material placement, creating ambiguity for inspectors and enforcement personnel. Determining whether materials are temporarily awaiting collection or being improperly stored would place an undue burden on local jurisdictions and complicate compliance efforts. MDSP and OSFM believe the bill undermines established regulatory processes, reduces flexibility in fire safety standards, and introduces unacceptable risks to occupant and responder safety.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of State Police urges the Committee to give House Bill 848 an unfavorable report.