



# NATIONAL AQUARIUM®

Date: February 2, 2026

Bill: HB92 - Environment - Beverage Containers Connected With Plastic Rings -  
Restriction on Sale

Position: Support with amendments

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Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report with amendments for HB92 - Environment - Beverage Containers Connected With Plastic Rings - Restriction on Sale. This legislation would reduce unnecessary plastic waste by prohibiting the sale or distribution of beverage containers that are joined by plastic ring connectors.

Stopping plastic pollution is one of the National Aquarium's three strategic conservation goals. Plastic pollution is a rapidly accelerating crisis whose impacts span from global to local. In both its macro- and microscopic forms, plastic pollution continues to endanger wildlife, contaminate food webs, adversely affect human health, and contribute to substantial environmental justice concerns. As part of our commitment to addressing this crisis, the National Aquarium has taken several steps to reduce or eliminate the use of plastic in our facilities, including the elimination of single-use plastics from our cafeterias. The Aquarium also conducts regular debris cleanups, working with dedicated volunteers to pick up plastic waste including beverage plastic ring connectors.

Addressing the harmful impacts of the plastic pollution crisis requires comprehensive systemic change. This bill is one of many steps needed to meaningfully address one of the largest sources of plastic pollution affecting ecosystems and humans alike. The National Aquarium also recognizes that HB92 compliments other producer responsibility policies before this Committee, such as the Maryland Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program, which would further address the plastic pollution from beverage containers in Maryland. In Maryland alone, 5.5 billion beverage containers are sold annually.<sup>1</sup> For any of those containers sold with plastic connecting rings, there is significant potential for hundreds of thousands of pieces of plastic leaking from Maryland's waste stream into the environment. Prohibiting the use of plastic beverage connector rings is a meaningful step in addressing plastic pollution in Maryland.

We appreciate Delegate Schindler's work on this issue and his amendment to remove an exemption for "biodegradable" beverage ring connectors. We agree with this approach and believe that striking this language will reduce confusion and costs of implementation and enforcement. **We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB92 with the sponsor amendment.**

Contact:

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<sup>1</sup> Container Recycling Institute (CRI). "2024 Beverage Market Data Analysis (BMDA)"