



**Bill:** HB 354

**Date:** February 19, 2020

**Position:** Support

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## **HB 354 - Solid Waste Management - Personal Cleansing Products Provided at Lodging Establishments - Prohibition**

Dear Chairman Davis, Chairman Barve, and members of the Committees:

Trash Free Maryland is a nonprofit organization focused on lasting change to prevent trash pollution. We bring together organizations, businesses, government agencies and decision makers, and individuals committed to reducing trash in Maryland's environment.

Trash Free Maryland enthusiastically supports HB 354, which would prohibit hotels and other lodging establishments from providing personal cleansing products, such as shampoo and conditioner, in travel size plastic bottles in guest rooms. Guests could still request these items at the front desk, or other locations in the establishment, but they would not be available in guest rooms or shared bathrooms.

**The problem:** Roughly 5 billion single-use toiletry bottles are discarded annually -- many of them only partially used -- which adds to our substantial and growing plastic waste problem. These bottles can be difficult to recycle because they are often only partially used, and therefore too contaminated by their remaining contents and small size for the recycling process. Tons of plastic trash are added to landfills by toiletry bottles on an annual basis.

**The solution:** There are less wasteful and ultimately cheaper alternatives available, such as wall mounted bulk dispensers or larger bottles. With bulk dispensers a hotel with 140 rooms can save an estimated \$2000 and reduce plastic waste by over 250 pounds annually.

**We urge a favorable report on HB 354.** Thank you.

Contact:

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