



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

House Bill 824

Beverage Container Deposit Program-Establishment and Advisory Commission

DATE: February 26, 2020

CBF POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) SUPPORTS HB 824. This bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to establish a beverage container deposit program and establishes an Advisory Commission to develop the program's framework and implementation.

Reducing litter from plastic, PET and glass bottles will reduce the amount of aluminum, glass, and plastic bottle pollution in local waterways and the Chesapeake Bay. This legislation requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to establish a beverage deposit program that meets specific goals, based on recommendations of an Advisory Commission, including achieving a statewide beverage container redemption target of 90%, among other goals. Reaching this goal would effect a reduction of litter from bottles.

The Advisory Commission established by this bill is also charged with ensuring the deposit program that reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing greenhouse gases help stabilize the climate and contributes to water quality. Warmer water holds less oxygen and nitrous oxides from incineration of any fuel deposits nitrogen into the Bay. Federal efforts to reverse progress on air pollution from incineration have increased the role states must now play in addressing the air component of the Chesapeake Bay Blueprint.

Maryland's Zero Waste Plan specifically identifies a bottle redemption program as an important part of the State's zero-waste strategy, and this legislation provides an effective and thoughtful means to implement that aspect of the State's plan. HB 824 implements an indisputably effective program to reduce bottle litter and incorporates solutions to concerns about this program heard in previous years.

For these reasons, CBF SUPPORTS HB 824 and urges a FAVORABLE report from the Environment and Transportation Committee. For more information, please contact Carmera Thomas, Baltimore Program Manager at 443.482.2011 or carmerathomas@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 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.