



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**HB 99**

**DATE: February 5, 2021**

**SPONSOR: Delegate Love**

**ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation**

**CONTACT PERSON: Amy Samman (amy.samman@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: Support with Amendment (Department of Environmental Protection)**

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### **Beverage Container Deposit Program – Establishment and Advisory Commission**

House Bill 99 requires the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to establish a beverage container deposit program by September 1, 2022. The bill also establishes an Advisory Commission to Develop a Beverage Container Deposit Program. The Advisory Commission is required to develop a framework for establishing a beverage container deposit program and make recommendations on how to implement the program. MDE must establish the program in accordance with the framework and recommendations developed by the Advisory Commission.

Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (MCDEP) supports the intent of House Bill 99 as a means to increase recycling of beverage containers across the State. Deposit programs may also reduce litter by incentivizing customers to return the beverage containers. However, MCDEP believes an amendment to extend the amount of time provided to MDE to establish the program would be beneficial. As drafted, the bill requires MDE to establish the program nine months after the Advisory Commission develops the framework and makes its recommendations to the General Assembly. MCDEP believes changing the date of establishment from September 1, 2022 to July 1, 2023 will ensure MDE has adequate time to implement the framework and recommendations of the Advisory Commission.

For the foregoing reasons, MCDEP respectfully requests a favorable with amendment report on House Bill 99.