



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**HB 248**

**DATE: January 22, 2021**

**SPONSOR: Delegate Shetty**

**ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation**

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

**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION POSITION: Support**

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### **Condominiums and Homeowners Associations – Rights and Restrictions – Composting**

This bill prohibits a condominium or a homeowners' association from restricting or prohibiting composting or contracting with a private entity for the collection of organic waste materials for composting at a composting facility.

Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection (MCDEP) supports House Bill 248. Composting is a key issue for Montgomery County as it works towards its goal of zero waste. The most recent Waste Composition Study (2017) estimates that approximately 55,000 tons of food scraps are disposed of annually by single-family and multi-family homes in Montgomery County. It is important for the County to increase the amount of food scraps that are recycled in order to meet its zero waste goals. This bill would also allow residents to compost grass and leaves as well.

Passage of House Bill 248 would help ensure that residents in condominiums and homeowners' associations have the option to compost food scraps and grass and leaves on their property or secure collection services for these materials to be composted off-site. This, in turn, will increase opportunities to recycle more organics into compost either through backyard composting or use of composting facilities.

For the foregoing reasons, MCDEP supports House Bill 248 and respectfully requests a favorable report.