

HB0099, Beverage Deposit

Support

Hello, thank you to Delegate Love for this bill and thank you to the committee for this hearing. As a former resident of Michigan, I am excited for the possibility of bottle deposit in this state, because I know how well it works.

Certainly, there will be adjustment problems in implementation. For example, where will bottle return machines go in existing grocery stores that do not currently have space set aside for them? But the many positives of bottle deposit will outweigh this small problem.

I want to take a moment to respond to some arguments that bill opponents made last year. First, the Maryland Association of Counties said that this bill would divert material from county recycling programs, which are already struggling. This is quite a reach. It is clear that recycling rates are pitifully low, under 50%, and that states with bottle deposit bills have recycling rates frequently above 80% or 90%. The grocery stores that collect bottles do not recycle them on site. These bottles can easily be turned over to the county recycling centers, giving them far more bottles, perhaps double, than they collect and process now. It is hard to imagine what the problem here is. While there may be costs to collection and transport, the 10% of bottles that are not returned will provide \$0.10 in funds, each, that can be divided up however is necessary.

Second, the Maryland Association of Counties suggested that this bill should be rejected since the counties have already invested in single stream recycling programs. Again, these existing single stream recycling programs do not attain nearly the level of bottle recycling that exists in deposit states. Therefore, this is the sunk cost fallacy. It doesn't matter how much time and money has been invested in something; if a better, more cost-effective option is available, we should switch to it. We don't need to "get our money's worth" out of curbside pickup campaigns; those costs are sunk.

I look forward to living in a state where it's rare to see bottles and cans sitting on the ground.

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