



ACTION ALERT – Take action to halt trash pollution in Maryland!

February 27 2024

The Maryland House of Delegates is holding hearings **this week** on HB 735, a bill to establish the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program (the bottle bill). The Maryland Senate will hold hearings on the same legislation next week (SB 642). As Maryland Delegates and Senators hear about these bills from activists in Annapolis, they also need to hear from people across Maryland who care about our streams and wetlands. They need to hear from people who care about the Anacostia watershed. They need to hear from YOU!

Five point two billion single use beverage containers are sold in Maryland every year. That is an average of over 14 million plastic bottles, aluminum cans and glass bottles purchased, used, and disposed of every day! However, despite curbside pick-up, **less than a quarter of all that trash is actually captured for recycling**. The rest, 4 billion containers, never get into the recycling stream. That is almost 2 bottles and cans per each of Maryland's 6.2 million residents **per day, every day**, going to rapidly filling, often leaking landfills, to incinerators to be burned into toxic air pollution, or into our neighborhood streets, parks, and rivers. We have all seen the result: the stream and wetlands of the Anacostia clogged with plastic trash, fouling habitat for wildlife and fish and polluting our shorelines and parks. We must do better! And we can....

HB 735 and SB 642 would establish a 10-15 cent deposit on single use plastic, aluminum and glass beverage containers, which would be returned when the containers are bought back the store or a collection center. This system powerfully incentivizes recycling, as seen by in the 10 U.S. states that have bottle bills, where recycling rates of 60%, 70%, even over 80%. Imagine how many plastic bottles and aluminum cans would be kept out of our rivers and stream with that much improvement in Maryland's unacceptably low 23% recycling rate!

Take Action!

Find your local watershed Maryland Senator and Delegates on the list below and let them know that you strongly support HB 735 and SB 642, the Maryland bottle bill! Receive extra credit for contacting those marked with an asterisk, who are members of the Committees that will be considering the bills before they go to a vote of the full chambers. Contact them at:

Senator Alonzo T. Washington - alonzo.washington@senate.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3155

Senator Malcolm Augustine - malcolm.augustine@senate.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3745*

Senator Joanne C. Benson - joanne.benson@senate.state.md.us Ph. 410-841-3148

Senator Jim Rosapepe - jim.rosapepe@senate.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3141

Delegate Kris Valderrama - kris.valderrama@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3210*

Delegate Julien Ivey – julien.ivey@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3210

Delegate Diana Fennell - diana.fennell@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3478

Delegate Tiffany T. Alston - tiffany.alston@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3139

Delegate Andrea Fletcher Harrison - andrea Fletcher.harrison@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3919

Delegate Jazz Lewis - jazz.lewis@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3691

Delegate Anne Healey - anne.healey@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3961
Delegate Ashanti Martinez - ashanti.martinez@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3652
Delegate Nicole A. Williams - nicole.williams@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3058
Delegate Deni Taveres - deni.taveras@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3101
Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk - joseline.pena.melnyk@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-213-3604
Delegate Ben Barnes - ben.barnes@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3046
Delegate Mary A. Lehman - mary.lehman@house.state.md.us Ph. 410-858-3114*
Delegate Veronica Turner - veronica.turner@house.state.md.us Ph. 301-858-3212*

Not sure who to contact? Go to <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District> to find your representatives in the Maryland legislature. Do it today! And thank you for all you do to protect and restore the Anacostia watershed!

Sample Script:

Hi, my name is [Your Name] and I'm a constituent from [Your City/Town], Maryland. I'm urging you to support the bottle bill, House Bill 735, and Senate Bill 642.

I strongly believe that passing a bottle bill in Maryland is the right decision for our environment, our economy, and our communities.

Implementing a bottle bill will:

- Reduce litter and improve the cleanliness of our streets, parks, and waterways.
- Increase recycling rates and conserve valuable resources.
- Create new jobs in the recycling industry.
- Boost local businesses that redeem bottles and cans.

I urge you to please vote in favor of House Bill 735 and Senate Bill 642. This legislation will have a positive impact on Maryland for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.