
Extended Producer Responsibility in MD

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Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

- EPR already applies to many products in Maryland, such as batteries, products that contain mercury, and various electronics
- EPR shifts the costs and responsibility of waste management and recycling from taxpayers and local governments to the producers. Existing EPR programs function as “take-back programs” that the producers stand up.
- This bill retains municipal waste and recycling systems and asks producers to contribute financially to transportation and sorting

Main Points

Goals:

- Waste reduction
- Producers help local govts cover costs associated with managing residential waste & recycling

Process:

- Producers band together to create a **stewardship organization**
- Producers of covered products must submit a **stewardship plan** to MDE

Stewardship Plan: Components

- Membership
 - List all producers and brands covered by stewardship plan
- Performance goals
 - Waste reduction of covered products
 - By material type: post-consumer recycled content, contamination reduction, packaging reduction, etc.
- Implementation plan
 - Describe how performance goals will be met or exceeded
- Stakeholder engagement
 - How stakeholders (local Govt, recyclers, haulers, etc) were engaged in the development of the stewardship plan

Stewardship Plan: Components - Financing

- Methods of financing
 - **Fee structure for members** - Fees collected will be used to cover costs of operating the product stewardship org AND to reimburse/ provide grants to local Govt
 - **Method for reimbursing local governments** - For costs associated with transporting and processing covered materials and products
 - **Incentives / disincentives** - Used to encourage producers to reduce waste and improve recyclability, ultimately improving product design

Accountability

- Reporting requirements
 - Producers submit reporting to MDE
 - Public website
- Prohibition to sell, import, or distribute if not part of product stewardship organization or submitting independent product stewardship plan
- Civil penalties
- Financing subject to independent audits
- Regular re-authorization of Stewardship plans

Contact me!

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HOUSE BILL 36

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(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegates Lierman, Charkoudian, D. Jones, R. Lewis, Love, and Terrasa**

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Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Packaging, Containers, and Paper Products – Producer**
3 **Responsibility**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring, on or before a certain date, a certain producer of certain
5 packaging, containers, and paper products to individually or as part of a stewardship
6 organization submit a certain covered materials and products stewardship plan to
7 the Department of the Environment for review and approval; prohibiting, on or after
8 a certain date, a producer of certain covered materials and products from selling,
9 offering for sale, distributing, or importing certain covered materials and products
10 unless the producer, individually or as part of a stewardship organization, has an
11 approved stewardship plan on file with the Department; requiring the stewardship
12 plan to include certain information; requiring a stewardship plan to provide a certain