
Extended Producer Responsibility in MD

Dani DiPietro
Legislative Director
Delegate Brooke Lierman
District 46 - Baltimore City

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 “takeback 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 **astewardship 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

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Contact me!

brooke.lierman@house.state.md.us

410-841-3319

HOUSE BILL 36

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(PRE-FILED)

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

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Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

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