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
HOUSE BILL 36

(M3) 1hr0998

(PRE–FILED)

By: Delegates Lierman, Charkoudian, D. Jones, R. Lewis, Love, and Terrasa
Requested: October 15, 2020
Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning Environment – Packaging, Containers, and Paper Products – Producer Responsibility

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