

STATE OF MARYLAND

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary

BILL NO: Senate Bill 156

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: Support with Amendments

TITLE: Environment - Recycling – Apartment Buildings
and Condominiums

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill adds a new §9-1711 to the Environment Article and will require property owners or managers of apartment buildings or condominiums with ten or more dwelling units to provide recycling collection and removal for further recycling of recyclable materials. In addition, the bill requires that the County Recycling Plan required in §9-1703 of the Environment Article address the collection and recycling of recyclable materials from residents by property owners or managers of apartment buildings and condominiums. It also provides authority for any enforcement unit, officer, or official of the State or county to enforce the bill's provisions. The bill provides for a civil penalty not exceeding \$50 per day on which the violation exists for any person who violates this bill and disbursement of those penalties to the county where the violation occurred.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Department supports Senate Bill 156 with amendments. The Climate Action Plan report by the Maryland Commission on Climate Change indicates that significant greenhouse gas emissions and carbon reductions can be achieved through recycling. The Department supported a similar bill (Senate Bill 953) with amendments in 2009. Most of the amendments the Department suggested in 2009 have been made in Senate Bill 156.

In order to enhance this year's bill, the Department is offering amendments that would provide for a separate effective date for the requirement for county recycling plan amendments, clarify the recycling

activities that would be acceptable in apartment buildings and condominiums, require annual recycling activity reports by apartment building and condominium owners or managers, and provide inspection authority for enforcement of the bill.

The first amendment would clarify that the collection and removal for further recycling of recyclable materials collected from residents of apartment buildings and condominiums must be in compliance with county recycling plans. This is necessary because without this amendment, the enforcing authority will not be able to determine what level or type of recycling would allow the owners and managers to be in compliance with the law.

In addition, as suggested last year, the first amendment also would require the apartment building and condominium owners or managers to report annually to the counties on the type and amount of materials collected and recycled and the amount of waste disposed, and information regarding the contractors that collected the recyclable materials and waste disposed. The Department suggests that the owners and managers report to their respective counties annually on these recycling activities by no later than March 1st of the following year. This will allow the counties to collect the information necessary for them to compile and accurately and completely report their counties' recycling activities annually to the Department. Capturing these recycling activities is essential to the State reaching its recycling goals under the Climate Action Plan.

The second amendment will provide inspection authority for the enforcement unit, officer, or official of the State or county to enforce the provisions related to the responsibilities of the property owners and managers of apartment buildings and condominiums.

The final amendment provides for a separate implementation date for the counties to revise their 10-year solid waste management plans. These plans, including the recycling plan, must be reviewed for revision every three years. Some plans have just been revised and it could be burdensome to require those counties to revise their recycling plans again so soon. In addition, some counties have lengthy public participation processes. The failure to provide a date by which the counties must amend their plans may cause difficulty for property owners and managers

in their efforts to comply with the law by October 1, 2014 if they are unsure if their strategies for providing recycling would be acceptable to the counties. The Department suggests that county plans be amended by September 1, 2012 to allow counties sufficient time for public comment on this activity and for apartment building and condominium owners and managers time to implement their recycling strategies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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BY: Maryland Department of the Environment

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 156
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 3 in line 8 after “UNITS,” insert “IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECYCLING PLAN REQUIRED UNDER §9-1703 OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE APARTMENT BUILDING OR CONDOMINIUM IS LOCATED,”.

On page 3 in line 12 after “UNITS” insert “; AND (3) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 EACH YEAR, REPORT TO THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE APARTMENT BUILDING OR CONDOMINIUM IS LOCATED ON RECYCLING ACTIVITIES IN THE PRIOR CALENDAR YEAR, INCLUDING:

- (I) THE TYPE AND TONNAGE OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS COLLECTED AND RECYCLED FROM THE DWELLING UNITS;
- (II) THE TONNAGE OF WASTE DISPOSED FROM THE DWELLING UNITS; AND
- (III) INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONTRACTORS THAT COLLECTED THE RECYCLABLE MATERIALS AND THE WASTE DISPOSED”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3 in line 22 after “STATE” insert “MAY CONDUCT INSPECTIONS OF APARTMENT BUILDINGS AND CONDOMINIUMS IN ORDER TO” and strike “SHALL”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 3 in line 28, after “2010” insert “, except for changes to Section 9-1703 which will take effect September 1, 2012”.