



House Bill 743

Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Task Force

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Environment & Transportation Committee

Date: February 24, 2016

From: Leslie Knapp, Jr. & Natasha Mehu

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 743 **WITH AMENDMENTS**.

While the bill would undertake a needed study of the infrastructure and policy challenges posed by composting, it should provide for stronger county-specific representation.

The bill establishes a Yard Waste and Food Residuals Diversion and Infrastructure Task Force that will study and recommend ways to increase Maryland's composting rates and infrastructure. Among the specific issues the Task Force will consider is whether a county solid waste management plan should require an organic materials recycling program and address facility infrastructure needs for organic materials.

As counties are primarily responsible for operating residential recycling programs in Maryland, new composting requirements would have a significant operational and fiscal effect on county governments. However, despite the role counties play in recycling, the bill does not provide for a county-specific member; instead, it requires the Governor to appoint one representative of a local public works department. MACo is proposing an amendment that would add a county member chosen by MACo and a municipal representative chosen by the Maryland Municipal League.

HB 743 will examine many of the substantial challenges that must be addressed before large scale composting can become practical in Maryland. Given the important role counties have in managing recycling programs and the considerable effect new composting policies will have on them, MACo believes it is reasonable to add a county-specific representative to the Task Force. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to adopt a report of **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** for HB 743.

MACo Proposed Amendments to HB 743

(Prepared By MACo 2016-02-24)

Explanation: The amendment would delete the local public works department representative and add two additional members – one appointed by MACo and the other appointed by the Maryland Municipal League.

On page 2, strike beginning with “one” in line 11 down through “(ii)” in line 12; and in lines 14, 16, 18, 20, and 21, delete “(iii)”, “(iv)”, “(v)”, “(vi)”, and “(vii)”, respectively, and substitute “(ii)”, “(iii)”, “(iv)”, “(v)”, and “(vi)”, respectively.

On page 2, in line 9, strike “and” and substitute:

“(14) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

(15) one representative of the Maryland Municipal League; and”;

and in line 10, strike “(14)” and substitute “(15)”.