

Plastic Bag Reduction Act (HB 314, SB 223)

There's a global plastic pollution crisis and carryout bags are a major culprit. An estimated 2 billion plastic carryout bags are used in Maryland annually! This bill would ban plastic carryout bags statewide as of July 1, 2022. Montgomery County would still be able to charge its current 5-cent fee for paper bags. The bill passed the House in 2020 and the Senate Finance Committee, but didn't get a vote on the Senate floor before the session was over. The entire Montgomery House delegation voted for it; all of the County's Senators were co-sponsors of the Senate bill. The plastic industry's claim that reusable bags spread covid-19 has been dispelled. Every year we wait, another 2 billion bags are entering the environment!

[Action Alert](#), [Fact Sheet](#), and [testimony](#).

Maryland Paint Stewardship Program (HB 127)

This bill would implement Extended Producer Responsibility for paint reuse, recycling, and disposal. Nineteen counties collect oil-based paint, fewer collect latex. However, drop-off locations and collection days are often few. Five counties have no paint collection. All manufacturers selling paint in Maryland would have to participate in a program to collect leftover architectural paint, manage reuse, recycling, and disposal, funded by an assessment added to the cost of each can of paint sold. Nine states already have this program. It diverts paint waste from the landfill and replaces existing collection programs, saving local governments money while increasing reuse and recycling. This bill passed the House in 2020; all Montgomery delegates supported it. We have no information on support in the Senate.

[Fact Sheet](#), [webinar](#), and [testimony](#).

Other zero waste bills the Sierra Club is supporting: ¹

HB 21 – Ban on Chemical Conversion of Plastic; HB 36 – Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Paper Products; HB 69 – Single Use Plastics & Toiletries on Request; HB 84/SB 412 – Right to Repair; HB 99 – Beverage Container Deposit; HB 264/SB 483 – Organics Recycling and Diversion; HB 280/SB 304 – Maryland Recycling Act – Recyclable Materials; HB 391 – Ban on Intentional Balloon Release; HB 857 – Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill – Chain of Custody and Reuse.

¹ I would embed links in these to our testimony. We don't yet have testimony on HB36, HB69, HB99, or HB 857.

Complete links for Bag Ban:

[complete link for the Action Alert: <https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/ban-single-use-plastic-carryout-bags-in-maryland-incentivize-reuse?promoid=7013q000001kllEAAQ>]

[complete link for the fact sheet; <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce-authors/u18365/Plastic%20Bag%20Reduction%20Act%20fact%20sheet%20-%2027Jan2021.pdf>

[complete link for testimony: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/maryland-chapter/HB314%20-%20Plastic%20Bag%20Reduction%20Act%20-%20E%26T%20-%20Lierman%20-%2028Jan2021%20%281%29.pdf>]

Complete links for the Maryland Paint Stewardship Program:

[complete link for the fact sheet: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce-authors/u18365/HB127%20Paint%20Stewardship%20fact%20sheet.pdf>]

[complete link for the webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBx_1ddRr_w&feature=youtu.be]

[complete link for the testimony:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/maryland-chapter/Campaigns/ZeroWaste/HB127%20-%20Maryland%20Paint%20Stewardship%20-%20E%26T%20-%20Boyce%20-%2028Jan2021.pdf>]