



House Bill 609

Environment - Waste Haulers - Reporting Requirement

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Environment and Transportation Committee

Date: February 22, 2023

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 609. This bill would require contracted waste haulers and collectors to report certain data to the counties on a yearly basis.

Annually, counties are required to submit to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) an MRA Tonnage Reporting Survey, which details the quantity of materials generated in the public and private sectors that are recycled and diverted from the solid waste stream each year. However, many jurisdictions aren't reaching the state-mandated recycling goal because businesses, multi-family dwellings, and office buildings are not reporting on their recycling activities, even if they are required by law to recycle.

HB 609 asks haulers to do their part in accurately tracking the flow, diversion, and in some cases, final destination of waste. This reporting, which to some extent is already being done by haulers for billing purposes, would result in significantly improved recycling, diversion, and reporting rates for the counties.

Overall, the data collected as a result of HB 609 will be leveraged to help local governments identify where recycling and diversion activities need to be better supported, and what additional services or infrastructural developments are needed to reach state and local sustainability goals. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** HB 609 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.