



House Bill 284 -- *Environment - Reducing Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility*
House Environment and Transportation Committee & Economic Matters Committee
February 22, 2023
Oppose

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes House Bill 284 -- *Environment - Reducing Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility*

MCCC does not object in concept that the business community has the responsibility to create more sustainable and ecologically friendly practices. However, House Bill 284 is simply too onerous and confusing for many Maryland small businesses at time where many industries continue to struggle to survive a pandemic economy.

The Montgomery Chamber is concerned about the amount of paperwork that is required by House Bill 284, which creates a significant burden on time for small businesses. The penalties required in the bill are also overly punitive. The bill also contains no specific delineation on how much financial impact there will be on producers, creating a massive risk for Maryland businesses.

MCCC is also concerned about the business definitions in the bill, which would capture too many small companies who can simply not afford to comply with the bill as written and would face the prospect of going out of business. This business definition threshold needs to be much higher to ensure that Maryland's small businesses can survive.

Small businesses such as wineries, distillers, and breweries may be adversely impact if this bill passes. During the pandemic, some of these entities were forced to reimagine their business model to survive. That has largely meant that these types of businesses have sold more products as take out, thereby using more packaged materials than they did pre-pandemic. This bill may penalize these small businesses that have adapted during the pandemic in the face of a difficult economy for their industry.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce opposes House Bill 284 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

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