

HOUSE BILL 639

C2, F2

5lr2079

By: **Delegates Ruth, Fair, Guyton, Harris, Lehman, and Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sports Venues – Reusable Beverage Containers – Use During Sporting Events**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the owner or operator of a sports venue and the governing
4 body of an institution of higher education that operates a sports venue to allow an
5 individual attending a sporting event at the sports venue to bring and use a reusable
6 beverage container during a sporting event; and generally relating to reusable
7 beverage containers and sports venues.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Business Regulation

10 Section 19–1001 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10. Sports Venues”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2024 Replacement Volume)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Education

15 Section 11–2001 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 20. Sports Venues”

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly to reduce plastic waste and
20 improve public health by ensuring the availability of choices for the consumption of water;
21 now, therefore,

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Business Regulation**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



SUBTITLE 10. SPORTS VENUES.

~~19-1001.~~

(A) (1) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "REUSABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINER" MEANS A DRINKING VESSEL THAT:

(I) IS MADE PRIMARILY OF ALUMINUM OR STAINLESS STEEL;

(II) CAN HOLD UP TO 24 OUNCES OF LIQUID; AND

(III) IS DESIGNED TO BE USED MORE THAN ONCE.

(3) "SPORTS VENUE" MEANS A BUILDING, STRUCTURE, FACILITY, OR OTHER PLACE WHERE PROFESSIONAL OR COLLEGIATE SPORTING EVENTS ARE HELD.

(B) (1) THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A SPORTS VENUE SHALL ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL ATTENDING A PROFESSIONAL OR COLLEGIATE SPORTING EVENT AT THE SPORTS VENUE TO BRING AND USE A REUSABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINER DURING A SPORTING EVENT.

(2) THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A SPORTS VENUE MAY REQUIRE A REUSABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINER TO BE EMPTY ON ENTERING THE SPORTS VENUE.

Article – Education

SUBTITLE 20. SPORTS VENUES.

~~11-2001.~~

(A) (1) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "REUSABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINER" MEANS A DRINKING VESSEL THAT:

(I) IS MADE PRIMARILY OF ALUMINUM OR STAINLESS STEEL;

(II) CAN HOLD UP TO 24 OUNCES OF LIQUID; AND

1 (III) IS DESIGNED TO BE USED MORE THAN ONCE.

2 (3) "SPORTS VENUE" MEANS ANY BUILDING, STRUCTURE, FACILITY,
3 OR PLACE OWNED OR OPERATED BY AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHERE
4 PROFESSIONAL OR COLLEGIATE SPORTING EVENTS ARE HELD.

5 (B) (1) THE GOVERNING BODY OF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
6 EDUCATION THAT OPERATES A SPORTS VENUE SHALL ALLOW ANY INDIVIDUAL
7 ATTENDING A PROFESSIONAL OR COLLEGIATE SPORTING EVENT AT A SPORTS
8 VENUE TO BRING AND USE A REUSABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINER DURING A SPORTING
9 EVENT.

10 (2) THE GOVERNING BODY OF AN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
11 MAY ESTABLISH A RULE OR POLICY REQUIRING REUSABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS
12 TO BE EMPTY ON ENTERING THE SPORTS VENUE.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2025.