

HOUSE BILL 841

M3

4lr2053

By: **Delegates Ruth, Allen, Charkoudian, Fair, Guyton, Healey, Kaiser, Lehman,
J. Long, Stewart, and Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Plastic Bottle Waste Reduction – Water Bottle Filling Stations**
3 **and Reporting**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that a water bottle filling station be installed in certain new
5 construction beginning on a certain date; requiring the Department of the
6 Environment to conduct a certain survey, gather certain data, and identify certain
7 methods on or before a certain date; and generally relating to plastic bottle waste
8 reduction.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Environment

11 Section 9–2601 through 9–2603 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 26. Plastic
12 Bottle Waste Reduction”

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Environment**

18 **SUBTITLE 26. PLASTIC BOTTLE WASTE REDUCTION.**

19 **9–2601.**

20 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
21 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(B) "PLASTIC BOTTLE" MEANS A PLASTIC CONTAINER INTENDED FOR SINGLE USE THAT:

(1) HAS A NECK THAT IS SMALLER THAN THE CONTAINER;

(2) ACCEPTS A SCREW-TYPE, SNAP CAP, OR OTHER SIMILAR CLOSURE; AND

(3) HAS A CAPACITY OF 1 LITER OR LESS.

(C) (1) "WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION" MEANS A PLUMBING FIXTURE CONNECTED TO THE POTABLE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND SANITARY DRAINAGE SYSTEM THAT IS DESIGNED AND INTENDED FOR FILLING PERSONAL USE WATER BOTTLES OR CONTAINERS AT LEAST 10 INCHES IN HEIGHT.

(2) "WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION" INCLUDES:

(I) A STATION THAT IS SEPARATE FROM OR INTEGRAL TO A DRINKING FOUNTAIN; AND

(II) A STATION THAT INCORPORATES A WATER FILTER AND COOLING SYSTEM FOR CHILLING THE WATER.

9-2602.

BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2024, A WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION OR A COMBINED WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION AND DRINKING FOUNTAIN SHALL BE INSTALLED IN ALL NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR WHICH A DRINKING FOUNTAIN IS REQUIRED UNDER THE CURRENT VERSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE OR STATE OR LOCAL LAW OR REGULATION.

9-2603.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) On or before October 1, 2025, the Department of the Environment shall:

(1) survey and gather data from each unit of State government and institution of higher education on the quantity and volume of plastic bottles purchased during the 2024 calendar year; and

1 (2) identify potential alternative methods for providing drinking water,
2 including the installation and use of water bottle filling stations.

3 (b) On or before December 1, 2025, the Department of the Environment shall:

4 (1) post the survey conducted under subsection (a) of this section on the
5 Department's website; and

6 (2) submit the survey and alternative methods identified under subsection
7 (a) of this section to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government
8 Article, the General Assembly.

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to
10 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or
11 application to any new construction under contract before the effective date of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2024.