INTRODUCTION

PHILLIP LEE, P.E.

BALTIMORE HARBOR WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Moffatt & Nichol
To understand why we are even discussing the Bottle Bill

To explain the Bottle Bill

To describe the State Legislative process for a bill to become law

To discuss how GLENWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL can get involved
WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

- A watershed is the area of land where all of the water drains into the same place.
PATUXENT WATERSHED

- Area = 911 square miles
- Length of Patuxent River = 106 miles
- Average Width of the Watershed = 8.6 miles
- Patuxent River flows through seven counties:
  - Anne Arundel
  - Calvert
  - Charles
  - Howard
  - Montgomery
  - Prince George’s
  - St. Mary’s
- Patuxent River headwaters (starts) in Howard County and enters the Chesapeake Bay through St. Mary’s and Calvert Counties
WHERE DO BOTTLES, CANS, & OTHER TRASH NOT DISPOSED OF PROPERLY END UP?

Blown and washed by rain into:

- The streets
- The Streams and Stream Banks
- The Patuxent River and River Banks
- The Chesapeake Bay and the Shoreline
ALTERNATIVES TO ADDRESS THE TRASH IN ROADWAYS AND WATERWAYS

- Enforcement of existing litter laws
- Recycling
- Education
- Bottle Bill
EVOLUTION OF THE BOTTLE CASH REFUND

- **1930’s**: cash refunds were created by the beverage industry to guarantee the return of glass bottles to be washed, refilled and resold
- **1940’s**: cans began to replace bottles
- **1960’s**: 47% of beer was in cans and 100% of soft drinks were in refillable/returnable glass bottles
- **1970’s**: 60% of beer was in cans and 47% of soft drinks were in cans
- **1971**: gradual elimination of refillable and returnable beer and soft drink bottles in the 1950’s and 1960’s, along with the increased production and sales of non-refillable bottles, led to an increase in beverage container litter and prompted the first Bottle Bill in Oregon
- **2000’s**: plastic water bottles have overwhelmed our society

WHAT IS A BOTTLE BILL?

A Bottle Bill or container deposit law requires a refundable deposit on water and beverage containers

Subsequently, **10 other states have passed Bottle Bills**
EVOLUTION OF THE BOTTLE CASH REFUND

States with Bottle Bills:
- California
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Hawaii
- Iowa
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- New York
- Oregon
- Vermont

States with Current Campaigns:
- For new deposit laws:
  - Florida
  - Maryland
  - New Hampshire
  - New Jersey
  - New Mexico
  - Tennessee
  - West Virginia
- For updating existing laws:
  - Connecticut
  - New York
  - Massachusetts
HOW A BOTTLE BILL WORKS

Deposit Initiation

Distributor or Bottler
Coca-Cola, Pepsi, etc.

Filled Container

Deposit

Retailer
Food Lion, Safeway, Weis, Highs, etc.

Filled Container

Consumer

Deposit

Deposit Redemption

Distributor or Bottler
Coca-Cola, Pepsi, etc.

Empty Container

Refund (Plus handling fee if applicable)

Retailer or Redemption Center
Food Lion, Safeway, Weis, Highs, etc.

Empty Container

Refund

Consumer

Glenwood Middle School Students, Teachers, Parents & Friends

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STATE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS FOR A BOTTLE BILL

Draft Bill

1st Reading
House Committee Assignment
Public Hearings

Favorable

2nd Reading
Committee

Favorable

3rd Reading
Entire House

Favorable

1st Reading
Senate Committee Assignment
Public Hearings

Favorable

2nd Reading
Committee

Unfavorable
Without Recommendation

3rd Reading
Entire Senate

Favorable

Governor

VETO

OVER-RIDE

3/5 House and Senate Over-Ride

SIGNS INTO LAW
MARYLAND BOTTLE BILL

- Baltimore Harbor Watershed Association (BHWA) was created in 2004 to address the Baltimore Harbor trash
- Bottle Bill was introduced in the State Legislature:
  - 2006 Bottle Bill wit 5¢ Deposit: 1st reading in House = Unfavorable
  - 2007 Bottle Bill with 5¢ Deposit: 1st reading in House = Unfavorable
  - 2008 Bottle Bill to establish a Task Force: 1st reading in House = Favorable
  - 1st reading in Senate = Unfavorable
  - 2009 Bottle Bill to establish a Task Force: 1st reading in House = Unfavorable
PRO’S AND CON’S OF THE BOTTLE BILL

**PRO’S**

- Prevents Litter
- Promotes recycling & reduces waste
- Creates jobs
- Receives widespread public support
- Provides financial incentives for recycling
- Environmentally significant
- Complements curbside recycling
- Creates more opportunities to recycle
- Encourages producer and consumer responsibility
PRO’S AND CON’S OF THE BOTTLE BILL

CON’S

- Will increase the price of beverages
- Could lead to a decrease on beverage sales and result in a loss of sales tax revenue to the State
- Expensive program - huge investment in new trucks to pick up bottles/cans and gas fees
- Food retailers are reluctant to support since it requires them to accept redeemable bottles and many retailers do not have enough space to store them. Also, if stored near fresh food, may create rodent problem
- Only addresses beverage container litter which, according to Luke Schmidt of Waste New, makes up 10% of the litter stream
- Outdated: when bottle bill was passed, recycling programs were just starting, now we have better programs to offer and don’t need a bottle bill, or at this point a bottle bill isn’t the best solution anymore
- Creates bottling/shipping nightmare for beverage companies and distributors/dealers
- People find it inconvenient to travel to local redemption centers and retail stores to recycle and would rather recycle through curb-side recycling
HOW CAN STUDENTS AT GLENWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL GET INVOLVED?
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STATE Elected OFFICIALS

ALLAN H. KITTLEMAN  
Republican, District 9, Carroll & Howard Counties  
James Senate Office Building, Room 420  
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 841-3671, (301) 858-3671  
e-mail: allan.kittleman@senate.state.md.us  
fax: (410) 841-3395, (301) 858-3395

GAIL H. BATES  
Republican, District 9A, Howard County  
House Office Building, Room 202  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 841-3556, (301) 858-3556  
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3556 (toll free)  
e-mail: gail.bates@house.state.md.us  
fax: (410) 841-3571, (301) 858-3571

WARREN E. MILLER  
Republican, District 9A, Howard County  
House Office Building, Room 202  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 841-3582, (301) 858-3582  
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3582 (toll free)  
e-mail: warren.miller@house.state.md.us  
fax: (410) 841-3571, (301) 858-3571