

Extended Producer Bill: A bill that would create a fund to cover the cost of recycling and incentivize companies to make their packaging more recyclable.

Why is this needed? Municipalities have little power to control the barrage of materials flooding the Commonwealth but are responsible for managing recycling and disposal.

- Recent fluctuations in the recycling market have drastically increased costs for municipalities, which now pay tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.
- A growing percentage of packaging waste is plastic – 40 percent of all plastic production is used for packaging. However, just 10 percent of all plastic produced is recycled. The rest is burned, buried in landfills, or lost in the environment, contributing to air and water pollution, the formation of microplastics, and a growing litter crisis in our oceans.
- Companies that sell packaged products do not have an incentive to design packaging so that it can be recycled, or to use recycled content in their manufacture. While producers benefit from wrapping their products in disposable materials, local taxpayers are responsible for cleaning up litter and paying for trash and recycling, regardless of whether they purchased the products.

HD 1771: An Act to save recycling costs in the Commonwealth

Sponsor: Representative Michael Day

Summary: HD 1771 creates a program to fund and improve Massachusetts' municipal recycling systems by ensuring that companies that produce consumer printed paper and packaging share in waste management costs. Support this bill to save millions of taxpayer dollars, encourage less wasteful packaging, and increase the effectiveness of recycling in the Commonwealth.

1. The Act establishes a producer responsibility organization tasked with the collection of fees from producers of printed paper and packaging sold on the market, to be paid as reimbursements for up to 80 percent of a municipality's recycling costs.
2. Producers pay a higher fee for less recyclable materials, and a lower fee for easily recyclable materials or packaging with a higher recycled content.
3. Shared responsibility for dealing with waste provides the right economic incentives to packaging producers and recyclers, which could help Massachusetts raise its recycling rate from ~25 percent to well over 50 percent.

This concept, *Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging and Printed Paper*, has been tested and proven in countries all over the world.

1. Successful product stewardship programs have transformed waste management in the EU, Canada, Israel, Brazil, Chile, India and Russia.
2. Organizations and public officials in Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New York are joining together to call for the positive transformation that an EPR program would bring to not just Massachusetts, but the entire Northeast region.