



## **NEWS BRIEF:**

# **Bills to Curtail Illegal Dumping, Littering Gain Traction**

**JUNE 30, 2019** – Two bills that moved through the House of Representatives last week may help reduce Delaware's pervasive illegal dumping and litter problem.

Among other things, [Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 5 \(as amended\)](#) will create enhanced penalties for illegally dumping a "substantial quantity of litter" (more than a standard garbage can) on public or private land.

A person found guilty of dumping under the legislation would be punished with a fine of at least \$500 and 8 hours of community service for a first offense, and a minimum fine of \$1,000 and at least 16 hours of community service for a second offense within two years.

An additional \$500 would be tacked on to any penalty for a violation committed within a state park, state forestry area, state wildlife area, federal wildlife refuge, or National Park Service property.

The bill was approved without a dissenting vote by the legislature and now heads to the governor for his signature.

A second bill winning approval in the House this week seeks to double Delaware's littering fines. Sponsored by [State Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek Valley](#), [House Bill 179](#) calls for a first offense to be punishable with a fine of at least \$100 and up to eight hours of community service. A second offense, committed within two years, would garner a fine of \$150 and up to 25 hours of community service.

Rep. Smith said he was inspired to write the legislation after sponsoring a community clean-up event in his district earlier this spring. "This bill will hold individuals to a certain standard if they violate the law," he said.

Passed by a vote of 40 to 0, the bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.