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BILL NO.: **SB 686**

TITLE: Environment – Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program
- Establishment

SPONSOR: Senator Augustine

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 20, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** SB 686 – Environment – Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program – Establishment. SB 686 creates the Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program within Maryland’s Department of the Environment, establishes recycling fees for two tiers of covered electronic devices, and creates an Advisory Council to study and make recommendations regarding the program and its impact to the Department.

In August 2023, Baltimore County announced its renewed commitment to recycling often complex electronic devices, including computers, smart devices, cell phones and televisions in order to increasingly divert the components in such devices from our municipal landfill. SB 686 will establish a complimentary statewide program to collect modest fees from electronic device manufacturers and consumers to help local jurisdictions and other authorized recyclers to expand electronics recycling.

As electronic devices proliferate within our homes, businesses, schools, and entertainment, we must also consider what happens at the end of these devices’ useful lives. Establishing the mechanisms and funding resources to responsibly recycle all of parts of many electronic devices can help protect valuable landfill capacity while protecting our environment.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 686 from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.