



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

---

**ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550**

**ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270**

---

**SB 686**

**DATE: February 20, 2024**

**SPONSOR: Senator Augustine**

**ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment**

**CONTACT PERSON: Steven Shofar (steven.shofar@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: Support with Amendments (Department of Environmental Protection)**

---

### **Environment – Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program – Establishment**

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection supports the intent of this bill to establish a Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program for the purpose of enhancing electronic devices recycling across the State. However, we respectfully request that this bill be carefully analyzed to ensure that it does not negatively impact existing local government electronic devices recycling programs. Our highest priority is to ensure that the bill is amended to expressly acknowledge that it does not preempt the existing authority of local governments to operate their own electronic devices recycling programs.

Montgomery County has operated an electronic devices recycling program since 2000 and the comprehensive nature of the program has been recognized as a model for other local jurisdictions throughout the State. The program recycles a wide variety of electronic devices that goes beyond the devices covered by this bill.<sup>1</sup> In addition to allowing residents to drop off electronic devices at a collection center, approximately half the County has on-call curbside electronics pickup with the other half of the County to be added in the near future. The cost of operating the County's electronic devices recycling program is covered by an integrated County-wide solid waste systems benefit charge.

We respectfully request that the bill be amended to add language that makes it clear that Montgomery County and other local governments retain authority to operate their own electronic devices recycling programs, including authority to integrate the costs of such programs into a County-wide systems benefit charge to the extent that program costs are not covered by any new State funding under the bill. The bill should also be amended to allow reimbursement for the costs of any type of collection of electronic devices (e.g., curbside or mobile programs), in addition to on-site collection of electronic items.

---

<sup>1</sup> A complete list of the types of devices collected and recycled in Montgomery County can be found here: [https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DepHowDol/material.aspx?tag=electronics&material\\_key=37](https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DepHowDol/material.aspx?tag=electronics&material_key=37)