



## **Senate Bill 686**

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**  
**WITH AMENDMENTS**

To: Education, Energy, & Environment  
Committee

Date: February 20, 2024

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS SB 686 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill establishes a framework whereby the State will assess a fee on the purchase of certain electronics in order to more adequately fund primarily county-operated infrastructure for electronics recycling.

As policy makers continue the push toward electrification, Maryland residents will be purchasing an increasing number of electronics. Already, most household devices are powered by electricity and when they reach the end of their lifespan they are recycled via county-operated infrastructure. SB 686 seeks to strengthen this infrastructure by establishing a fee on the purchase of electronics and using those funds to provide more sufficient resources to collection and recycling operations. Importantly, counties that function as both collectors and recyclers will be eligible to receive reimbursement for both services, extending the capacity of local programs and providing more flexibility to local tax dollars. Should a county already be satisfied with its existing electronics collection and recycling programming, the legislation enables a county to retain that offering and not participate in the newly established scheme.

Counties thank both the advocates and the sponsors for proposing a plan to strengthen electronics recycling and retain local autonomy. Counties offer the following clarifying amendment to underline the intended local flexibility:

On page 9, in lines 3-12, do not strike but retain items (C)(1) & (2). Retaining this provision clarifies that counties can continue their own electronics recycling programs and will allow Counties to use the recorded recycled weights in their Maryland Recycling Act required annual reporting.

SB 686 marks an important step in fortifying Maryland's recycling infrastructure, while ensuring local leaders can operate programs that work best for their communities. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 686 a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report.