

# SENATE BILL 553

M3, M5

6lr2897

CF HB 833

By: Senator Augustine

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

## 1 AN ACT concerning

## Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland – Reestablishment

4 FOR the purpose of reestablishing the Commission to Advance Lithium–Ion Battery Safety  
5 in Maryland with an altered membership and mandate; and generally relating to the  
6 Commission to Advance Lithium–Ion Battery Safety in Maryland.

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
8 That:

9 (a) There is a Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland.

(b) The Commission consists of:

(1) the following member

(1) the following members serving on the Commission on December 31,

(i) one representative of the Department of the Environment, by the Secretary of the Environment;

(ii) the following members, appointed by the Director of the Energy Administration:

1. one representative of the Maryland Energy  
ion;

2. one representative of a lithium-ion battery manufacturer  
—ion battery manufacturer trade group; and

3. one representative of a vehicle propulsion battery  
er;

**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- (iii) the State Fire Marshal, or the Fire Marshal's designee;
- (iv) one representative of the Power Plant Research Program, Secretary of Natural Resources;
- (v) one representative of the Public Service Commission, appointed by the Public Service Commission;
- (vi) the following members, appointed by the President of the Association of Counties:
  1. one representative with a background in emergency management;
  2. one representative with a background in public works; and
  3. one representative with a background in climate, clean energy, and structure;
- (vii) one representative of the Professional Firefighters of Maryland, President of the Professional Firefighters of Maryland;
- (viii) one representative of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, President of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association;
- (ix) one representative of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute, Director of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute;
- (x) one citizen representative, designated by the President of the Professional Firefighters Association;
- (xi) one representative of a public utility in the State;
- (xii) one representative of the Maryland Recycling Network;
- (xiii) one representative of the Maryland–Delaware Solid Waste Management Council;
- (xiv) one representative of the vehicle dismantling sector;
- (xv) one representative of a battery recycling trade group; and
- (xvi) one representative of the grid scale battery energy storage industry;

(i) one representative of the Maryland Port Administration, appointed by the Secretary of Transportation;

5 (iii) one representative of the property casualty insurance industry,  
6 appointed by the Maryland Insurance Commissioner;

(iv) one representative of the commercial insurance industry,  
appointed by the Maryland Insurance Commissioner;

9 (v) one representative of the Land and Materials Administration,  
10 appointed by the Secretary of the Environment; and

11 (vi) any other members as determined necessary by the Commission.

12 (c) The member serving as chair of the Commission on December 31, 2025, shall  
13 continue to serve as chair of the Commission.

14 (d) The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall provide staff for the Commission.

15 (e) A member of the Commission:

16 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

19 (f) The Commission shall study and make legislative, regulatory, programmatic,  
20 or other recommendations regarding:

21 (1) best practices, standards, and guidelines:

22 (i) to prevent, detect, and suppress lithium-ion battery fires in:

23 1. consumer and transportation applications; and

26 (ii) to prevent, detect, and suppress lithium-ion fires at recycling  
27 facilities;

28 (iii) for reusing, recycling, and decommissioning lithium-ion  
29 batteries; and

(iv) for collecting, storing, and recycling lithium-ion batteries;

(2) the viability of extended producer responsibility for lithium-ion batteries;

(3) training, education, and other information to better inform the public and first responders regarding lithium-ion battery safety;

(4) battery risks at the Port of Baltimore and on roads, rail, and tunnels throughout Maryland;

(5) the impacts of battery risk on insurance providers and insurance coverage availability;

(6) the integration of pending federal regulations and emerging third-party standards; and

12 (7) any other global issues the Commission may consider useful for  
13 enhancing the safety and reuse of batteries in the State.

14 (g) At the discretion of the Commission, the Commission may seek advice and  
15 consultation from outside individuals and entities.

16 (h) (1) On or before December 1, 2026, the Commission shall submit an interim  
17 report on the progress and status of the Commission to the Legislative Policy Committee,  
18 in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
23 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June  
24 30, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be  
25 abrogated and of no further force and effect.