

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

2 **Commission to Advance Lithium–Ion Battery Safety in Maryland –**
3 **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.

10 (b) The Commission consists of:

11 (1) the following members serving on the Commission on December 31,
12 2025:

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

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

17 1. one representative of the Maryland Energy
18 Administration;

19 2. one representative of a lithium–ion battery manufacturer
20 or a lithium–ion battery manufacturer trade group; and

21 3. one representative of a vehicle propulsion battery
22 manufacturer;

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,
appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources;

(v) one representative of the Public Service Commission, appointed
by the Chair of the Public Service Commission;

(vi) the following members, appointed by the President of the
Maryland Association of Counties:

1. one representative with a background in emergency
response;

2. one representative with a background in public works; and

3. one representative with a background in climate, clean
energy, and infrastructure;

(vii) one representative of the Professional Firefighters of Maryland,
designated by the President of the Professional Firefighters of Maryland;

(viii) one representative of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association,
designated by the President of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association;

(ix) one representative of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute,
designated by the Director of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute;

(x) one citizen representative, designated by the President of the
Maryland State 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
Association;

(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; and

(2) the following additional members:

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

3 (ii) one representative of the ocean freight shipping industry,
4 appointed by the Secretary of Transportation;

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

7 (iv) one representative of the commercial insurance industry,
8 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

17 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
18 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

24 2. utility applications, with review and consideration of the
25 National Fire Prevention Association 855 Standards for Grid Scale Storage and Safety;

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

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

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

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

(2) On or before December 1, 2027, the Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

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