



Maryland Green Industries Council
210 Fallen Horse Circle, Suite 100
Queenstown, MD 21658
(p) 443-262-8491

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House Bill 934 - Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Sale, Offering for Sale, and Use - Prohibition

Committee: Economic Matters

MaGIC Position: **OPPOSED**

The Maryland Green Industries Council, representing nursery, landscape, greenhouse, and arboriculture professionals is opposed to House Bill 934 – Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Sale, Offering for Sale, and Use – Prohibition. This bill would put a significant financial, operations and logistical burden on our members including small, independent, family businesses.

This bill would ban the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers in the state by 2024 and ban the use of gas powered blowers as of 2025. Leaf blowers are not just used during lead season but also during landscaping for blowing grass and mulch as well as for snow removal. Our members have identified a number of issues and negative consequences to being forced to switch to battery powered blowers:

- **Cost of electric blowers:** A popular brand of commercial blowers offers gas powered blowers for \$400. Electric blowers with the same capabilities are \$1,400. Replacing all the electric blowers and having additional batteries available would be prohibitively expensive.
- **Length of service:** Gas powered blowers can be refueled and used all day. At full power, most electric blowers last for 2 hours. This means in order to complete an 8-hour day of work, each blower would need 3 additional batteries or the crew would need to have the ability to charge batteries remotely. Converting trucks to have the capability for continuous charging costs upwards of \$600/truck and outfitting solar installments on trailers is exponentially more expensive.
- **Power reliability during emergencies:** Leaf blowers are used during many emergencies including snow and hurricanes. Electricity can be unreliable during these emergency events and would leave companies without a way to charge batteries for these tools.
- **Safety:** Battery powered lawn maintenance equipment has a higher propensity to catch on fire due to the debris from the jobs they are used to complete. This is a safety concern for workers and the vehicles and buildings in which the equipment is stored.
- **Longevity and waste:** The life expectancy of battery powered blowers used in a commercial setting is not yet know. It is known that the batteries wear out and need to be replaced. This will inevitably lead to more waste of batteries and the blowers they power.

Overall, this bill would have a detrimental effect on businesses using leaf blowers from a financial and efficiency standpoint and we ask for an unfavorable report.

Contact: Joe Miedusiewski, americanjoe@oldlinelobbying.com