

BILL: House Bill 399 - Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers
State Purchase and Use - Prohibition

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations

DATE: March 1, 2023

POSITION: Letter of Information

Upon review of House Bill 399 - Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - State Purchase and Use - Prohibition, the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

This bill would prohibit the State from purchasing a gas-powered leaf blower beginning in July 2023 and from using a gasoline-powered leaf blower beginning in July 2025. DGS owns 54 buildings that it operates and maintains, including landscape maintenance for the properties.

To comply with House Bill 399 DGS would need to transition from gasoline-powered leaf blowers to cordless leaf blowers. DGS would require cordless leaf blowers to maintain the agency's properties, as models with cords would not be practical. Currently, cordless battery-powered leaf blowers are not as powerful as gasoline-powered models and may require additional time to maintain a property. Useful battery runtime may also present a challenge and may require the purchase of additional batteries for the completion of a task.

The cost for DGS to transition to cordless leaf blowers would be:

First-year costs

- 30 cordless leaf blowers at \$300 each = **\$9,000**
- 30 supplemental battery packs at \$200 each = **\$6,000**

Third-year costs

- 30 replacement battery packs at \$200 each = **\$6,000**

Fifth-year costs

- 30 replacement cordless leaf blowers at \$300 each = **\$9,000**
- 30 replacement battery packs at \$200 each = **\$6,000**

Total cost (First to the fifth year)

- **\$36,000**

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The prohibition of using gasoline-powered leaf blowers also impacts contractors DGS uses for landscaping work. This would require the contractors to use cordless leaf blowers thus increasing the cost of the new equipment and time to complete a job. The cost may then be passed on to the State.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908.