



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

SB 532 – Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland

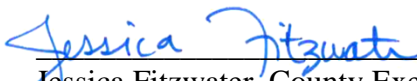
DATE: February 22, 2024
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
POSITION: Favorable
FROM: The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give SB 532 – Commission to Advance lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland a favorable report.

This bill aims to establish a commission to study lithium-ion battery safety in Maryland. As the use of lithium-ion batteries increases, it has become obvious that further safety measures are necessary to prevent fires at all stages of the battery's life cycle. The proposed commission will aim to study how to improve safety and make recommendations on best practices and guidelines as well as the viability of producer responsibility for these products. This is crucial to ensuring that these vital batteries are able to serve their purpose without causing harm to those who use, handle, or dispose of them.

SB 532 is important to the health and safety of Marylanders. The structure of this commission is equally as important as the commission itself. This is because we must ensure that those who understand the topic and are most impacted by the actions of the commission have a seat at the table. Specifically, it is crucial that we get solid waste voices to the table as they are responsible for handling these products after their useful life. These voices will assist in making practical and effective recommendations due to their subject matter expertise. This commission will also serve as the first step to a take back program of these batteries, which once again stresses the importance of having the voices of those who engage in this practice heard. SB 532 has great potential to set important safety standards to protect all Marylanders.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 532. I urge you to advance this bill with a favorable report.



Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive
Frederick County, MD