

JASON C. GALLION
Legislative District 35
Harford and Cecil Counties

Education, Energy, and
the Environment Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 21st, 2024

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair

Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

RE: SB532 – Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland

Position: **Favorable w/ Amendment**

Dear Chairman Feldman,

SB 532 creates a Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland. Lithium-Ion batteries are used to supply power to many of our devices daily such as our smartphones, laptops, and our electric vehicles. As electric vehicles become more prevalent we will have more and more lithium ion batteries on our roads and in our neighborhoods.

While we enjoy the advantages of these batteries as they have come to be a part of our everyday lives, we rarely tend to think of the disadvantages that come along with them. Unfortunately, these disadvantages can be deadly.

Establishing this commission will allow us as a state to study:

1) best practices and guidelines to:

- prevent, detect, and suppress lithium-ion battery fires in consumer, transportation, and utility applications
- Prevent detect and suppress fires at recycling facilities
- And for reusing and recycling, and decommissioning 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 regarding lithium-ion battery safety

4) any other global issues the commission may consider useful for enhancing the safety and reuse of batteries in the State.

On or before December 1st, 2025 the commission shall report its findings to the Governor and General Assembly

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We're proposing one amendment that will add an interim report due in 2024 and add:

- One representative of the Power Plant research project appointed by DNR
- One representative of the Public Service Commission
- One representative of the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute

I respectfully urge the committee for a favorable report on SB 532 so we can stay ahead of the curve on this issue and ensure that we're keeping the public safe as we place more of these batteries in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Gallion".

Jason Gallion

Senator, District 35