

**BILL:** House Bill 91  
Fossil Fuel-Powered Lawn and Garden Care Equipment - State  
Purchase, Use, and Contracts - Prohibition

**COMMITTEE:** House Health & Government Operations Committee

**DATE:** January 23, 2024

**POSITION:** Letter of Information

Upon review of House Bill 91: Fossil Fuel-Powered Lawn and Garden Care Equipment - State Purchase, Use, and Contracts - Prohibition, the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

The bill prevents the Department of General Services and other state agencies from purchasing fossil fuel-powered lawn and garden care equipment beginning January 1, 2025. The State may not use any such equipment beginning January 1, 2030. Likewise, the State may not enter or renew a contract with a contractor that uses fossil fuel-powered lawn and garden care equipment beginning January 1, 2025.

DGS appreciates the intent of the bill to move away from lawn and garden equipment using fossil fuels. DGS staff performs groundskeeping duties at 52 buildings and will need to purchase or replace equipment for all duties completed at those buildings. That equipment would cost approximately \$526,701 over five years. Additionally, DGS has contractual services for landscaping at 20 buildings. These contracts would be expected to rise by \$50,000 each year, allowing for 5% inflation. This is because battery-powered equipment remains less powerful than fossil fueled ones, requiring more time to do the same work and thus increasing contractors' labor costs.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at [Ellen.Robertson@maryland.gov](mailto:Ellen.Robertson@maryland.gov) or 410-260-2908 or Lisa Nissley at [Lisa.Nissley1@maryland.gov](mailto:Lisa.Nissley1@maryland.gov) or 410-260-2922.