



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 591: Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program – Establishment (Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization)

SPONSORED BY: Senator Malcolm Augustine

HEARING DATE: February 18, 2025 1:00PM

COMMITTEES: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The office of the Acting Prince George's County Executive urges **SUPPORT** of **Senate Bill 591: Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program – Establishment (Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization)**, which aims to establish the Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program.

Prince George's County operates an electronic collection program via its drop-off centers at Brown Station Road Residential Convenience Center and within its curbside collection program. The curbside collection program is a result of the enhancement of the county's residential collection contract which took effect on July 1, 2024. Over the years, it has hired vendors to collect, palletize and transport used electronics where costs have exponentially increased.

As presented, this proposal aims to establish an electronic collection program with local governments as one of the primary or frontline collectors. One of the key provisions contained therein seeks to cover the costs of existing programs that local jurisdictions are currently paying to vendors and recyclers to accept, transport and process used electronics. As a result, the county will expect to see a reduction in financial burdens associated with the management of such logistically complex, dangerous and expensive programs and operations.

Additionally critical, will be the component of this proposal which provides for the provision of a fund on heat, fire detection and suppression and extinguishing systems which will protect county employees in charge of handling electronics.

In all, this innovative proposal will rationalize the sale of covered electronic devices by manufacturers by providing relevant information about the recyclability of devices. It will also promote collaboration among retailers, consumers, manufacturers and recyclers to promote environmental stewardship and safety of one of the most challenging waste streams.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Acting Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS SB 591** and requests a **FAVORABLE** report.