



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

SB 591

***Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program - Establishment (Electronics Recycling
Health and Safety Modernization Act)***

Position: Informational
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Date: February 18, 2025
From: Leslie Gray, Government Relations Officer

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) offers the following **INFORMATIONAL** testimony on Senate Bill 591.

Bill Summary

SB 591 would have both fiscal and operational implications for the department. The bill proposes the establishment of a Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program and the creation of a corresponding recycling account within the State Recycling Trust Fund.

Position Rationale

MDE supports efforts to divert electronics from final disposal, however, the bill would present operational and financial challenges that should be considered. It is unclear whether the bill would significantly increase electronic waste diversion or primarily serve to finance existing electronic collectors and recyclers. Additionally, the legislation does not establish recycling rate targets or require electronics to contain a certain percentage of recycled materials. Such targets are a common feature of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs and help create market demand for recyclable materials in electronics manufacturing, thereby reducing landfill waste.

SB 591 would also eliminate MDE's current electronics recycling program, which incentivizes producers to offer free take-back programs for consumers. The loss of this program could reduce the available options for responsible electronics disposal, potentially impacting consumer participation in recycling efforts.

MDE hopes that this information regarding SB 591 is helpful. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.