



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 0591

February 18, 2025

TO: Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: SB0591 - Environment - Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program - Establishment (Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act)

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill 0591 (SB591).

SB591 would update Maryland's approach to electronic waste management by establishing the Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act. It creates the Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program to promote recycling and reuse while reducing e-waste. The bill restructures the State Recycling Trust Fund, establishing dedicated accounts for device recycling and manufacturer registration fees. Consumers will pay a recycling fee on new electronics, with retailers responsible for fee collection and remittance. SB591 also sets standards for authorized recyclers and collectors and establishes an advisory council to guide the program, aiming to improve public health, environmental sustainability, and e-waste management efficiency.

Baltimore City currently pays for e-recycling through contracted services that collect electronics at five Residential Recycling Centers managed by the Department of Public Works (DPW). The city recently entered a new five-year contract with electronics recycling vendor, costing approximately \$106,672.80 annually. This legislation could ease the financial burden by providing access to grant funds through the Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program, which may help offset contract costs or improve collection sites with covered shelters and upgraded containers, enhancing both service and infrastructure.

The program has the potential to generate positive fiscal impacts for Baltimore City, provided that funds from the State Recycling Trust Fund are properly allocated and distributed. Baltimore City faces unique challenges with urban environmental pollution, making it crucial to prioritize equitable resource distribution. Grant-based funding models often present administrative barriers that limit access to state resources. We recommend incorporating stronger equity considerations, such as ensuring that 40% of funds generated are allocated to Environmental Justice communities, which are those communities that have been disproportionately impacted by environmental and health issues. This will help guarantee that the most affected communities receive the necessary support.

With more and more electronics entering the market with materials that are hazardous if not disposed properly, it is paramount that there be a sustainable financial plan to manage the waste they generate. SB591 provides that framework and long-term sustainability.

For these reasons, the Baltimore City Administration respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB591.

*Annapolis – phone: 410.269.0207 • fax: 410.269.6785
Baltimore – phone: 410.396.3497 • fax: 410.396.5136
<https://mogr.baltimorecity.gov/>*