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**National Waste
& Recycling AssociationSM**

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 18, 2025

Senate Bill 591 – *Environment – Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program – Establishment*
(*Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act*)

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland chapter of the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA-MD) is a trade association representing the private solid waste industry in the State of Maryland. Its membership includes hauling and collection companies, processing and recycling facilities, transfer stations, and disposal facilities. NWRA-MD and its members support Senate Bill 591.

This bill establishes a Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program (CEDRP) in the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to facilitate the State's collection, recycling, refurbishing, or reuse of covered electronic devices. The bill covers “Tier I” devices, including computer monitors and televisions, and “Tier II” devices, including laptops, tablets, cell phones, computer central processing units, printers, scanners, copiers, and other items.

Electronic devices contain various hazardous and valuable materials that require specialized handling to prevent environmental contamination and recover reusable resources. Without a structured extended producer responsibility (EPR) program, these materials often end up in landfills or improperly processed, leading to fire hazards, increased environmental risks and lost economic opportunities. For example, lithium-ion batteries are used in many of the devices covered under the proposed program and can spark dangerous fires or explosions if they are damaged, crushed, or broken. These incidents impact worker safety on our collection trucks and facilities and threaten our capital infrastructure. As such, NWRA-MD advocates for removing lithium-ion batteries from curbside waste and recycling bins.

This bill would allow MDE to contract with an entity specializing in the private management of electronic recycling systems to facilitate the collection, recycling, refurbishing, or reuse of these products. This legislation will promote greater sustainability, increase safety, encourage the development of an efficient recycling infrastructure, and reduce the burden on local governments and waste management facilities.

Many jurisdictions across the country have successfully implemented EPR programs for electronics, demonstrating their effectiveness in increasing recycling rates, fostering innovation, and protecting public health. Maryland has the opportunity to be a leader in this effort, ensuring that electronic waste is handled in a way that benefits our environment and economy.

We request a favorable report of Senate Bill 591 to establish a comprehensive and effective EPR program for electronic devices in Maryland. We stand ready to work with you and other stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation of this critical policy.

For more information:

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