



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

SB 686

Extended Producer Responsibility for Batteries and Battery-Containing Products (Battery Stewardship 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 SB 686.

Bill Summary

SB 686 establishes a Battery Stewardship program with an advisory council and a battery stewardship organization to oversee recycling and end-of-life management for covered batteries and battery-containing products. The proposed legislation would require any producer of the covered battery or battery-containing product to register with the battery stewardship organization and would not be permitted to sell in the state if not registered by July 1, 2027.

Position Rationale

Broadly, while MDE supports further diversion of batteries from landfills, the department would need additional resources to implement the requirements of the bill. To ease program implementation, MDE would like to offer suggestions to provide further clarity. MDE anticipates that the current definition of “Battery-Containing Product,” which applies to products containing or packaged with two or more covered batteries, will significantly limit the scope of the law, and will not be a major means to divert batteries from landfills. MDE recommends revising the definition to apply to products containing one or more covered batteries.

To provide clarity, MDE also recommends specifying a size or weight threshold for “large lead acid battery,” and defining the terms “rechargeable,” and “recycling efficiency rates.”

MDE hopes that this information regarding SB 686 is helpful and is available to answer any questions.