SB0591-EEE_MACo_SUP.pdf
Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko
Position: FAV

Senate Bill 591

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

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Date: February 18, 2025

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 591. This bill establishes a framework for a state fee on the purchase of certain electronics in order to more adequately fund primarily county-operated infrastructure for sustainable electronics recycling.

As market trends have made clear, Maryland residents will be purchasing an increasing number of electronics. Already, most household devices are eventually disposed of or recycled via county-operated infrastructure. SB 591 seeks to strengthen this infrastructure, recognizing the specific potential for landfill and groundwater contaminants by e-devices that include batteries, digital visual displays, and other complex components. It establishes a fee on the purchase of electronics and uses those funds to provide more sufficient resources to collection and recycling operations. Importantly, counties that function as both collectors and recyclers will be eligible to receive reimbursement for both services, extending the capacity of local programs and providing more flexibility to local tax dollars. Should a county already be satisfied with its existing electronics collection and recycling programming, the legislation enables a county to retain that offering and not participate in the newly established scheme.

SB 591 marks an important step in fortifying Maryland's recycling infrastructure, while ensuring local leaders can operate programs that work best for their communities. For this reason, MACo urges the Committee to give SB 591 a **FAVORABLE** report**.**

Maryland SB0591 - Electronics Recycling Health and

Uploaded by: Doug Kobold

Position: FAV

CPSC
California Product Stewardship Council SM

1822 21st Street, Suite #100
Sacramento, CA 95811
(279) 444-7481

www.CalPSC.org

February 14, 2025

Senator Brian J. Feldman
Chair of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: SB0591-Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act SUPPORT

Dear Chair Feldman,

On behalf of the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), I am writing to you to express a "Support" position on SB0591 by Delegate Stein. CPSC is considered the expert on Product Stewardship programs in California. HB 931 proposes to create a Product Stewardship program for certain electronic waste products. While CPSC was not in existence when California's first electronic waste product stewardship program was established under Senate Bill 20 (Sher, 2003), we have been involved in the evolution of the existing program and did recently expand the program to go beyond just digital display devices to also include battery-embedded products under Senate Bill 1215 (Newman, 2022). Like the digital display devices are currently, these devices will also be charged a visible fee at the point of sale to ensure that they are properly recycled at the end of life.

In an interest to ensure programs that are established throughout the country help build on existing electronic waste collection and recycling programs, like the one in California, CPSC tracks pending legislation in other states. Both HB 931, and its nearly identical bill in the Senate, SB 591 by Senator Augustine, seek to establish a visible fee funded recycling program similar to the California program. I provided detailed feedback last year and the suggestions were considered and/or incorporated into the new version of the bill.

We appreciate the thoughtful stakeholder engagement on this important program and respectfully recommend an "Aye" vote. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have at either Doug@calpsc.org or my cell phone at 916-413-5262.

Respectfully,

Doug Kobold
Executive Director

CPSC Vision
Producers have the primary responsibility to establish, fund, and manage end of life systems for their products with state government setting the performance goals and ensuring accountability and transparency.

CPSC Mission Statement
To shift California's material economy from a linear model that subsidizes resource extraction, including ratepayer financed collection and disposal, towards a circular economy that relies upon producer-financed and managed recovery programs overseen by state agencies with all participants compensated for their contributions, while improving the health and well-being of all Californians.

SB0591_FAV_NWRA_Env. - Covered Elec. Dev. Recyclin
Uploaded by: Drew Vetter
Position: FAV

Collect
Recycle
Innovate

National Waste
& Recycling Association℠

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:
Andrew G. Vetter
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000

Steinert Battery BIll Maryland.pdf
Uploaded by: Edel Rodriguez
Position: FAV

February 14, 2025

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

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

Favorable

As current Vice President of Steinert US (SUS), I am writing in support of SB0591. I bring my many years of experience as an equipment supplier in the Waste, Metals, Mining and Glass recycling markets.

Steinert provides a multitude of equipment technologies into various recycling processes to include magnetics and sensor sorting in various markets. This variety in technologies allows Steinert to learn from other markets and being that knowledge into Waste recycling.

Battery fires at Municipal Recycling Facilities (MRF's) are a major issue with fires happening daily. Currently MRF's experience a small fire almost every day with catastrophic fires happening weekly at MRF's around the country.

Steinert strongly believes that the technology to detect, identify the specific battery threat and remove it from the waste stream already exists. We are also ready to demonstrate how.

We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs in the private sector and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

We thank Senator Augustine for sponsoring this bill and stand in support of this bill.

This bill will take the financial burden off taxpayers and local government, and fully fund both collection sites and recycling operations. It will insulate programs from unpredictable commodity markets, inflation and economic downturns.

It will grow local jobs and increase our domestic supply of rare earth minerals and precious metals for the auto, jewelry, electronics and clean energy industries.

It will allow jurisdictions to divert much needed tax revenues to other critical public sector services, eliminate fees at public collection sites, and expand programs, especially for rural and underserved areas.

Fires have already occurred at County electronics collection sites. We need to protect our essential workers, first responders, and recycling infrastructure. This bill will do that.

It will address the severe human health and safety issues from toxic chemical battery flammable gas, smoke, fire and explosion incidents (which have been fatal, even from inhalation). Battery fire incidents have been exponentially increasing in Maryland and across the country and world. The bill would fund heat spot (thermal imaging), fire and smoke detection, suppression and extinguishing equipment and monitoring and notification systems at electronics collection sites to limit these events and stop thermal runaway when they do occur. These incidents severely impact and endanger site staff, capital infrastructure like MRFs, transfer stations, collection trucks/drivers, other processing equipment, insurance rates (limiting capability to even be insured), in addition to first responders, who continue to receive more and more call outs due to battery fires.

Overall, this is a true shared responsibility model among government, consumers, retailers and producers, with broad support from government, private sector, electronics recyclers, solid waste associations, environmental nonprofits.

SB591_FAV_CleanWaterAction_EmilyRanson.pdf
Uploaded by: Emily Ranson
Position: FAV

SB591 – Environment - Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program - Establishment
(Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act)
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
February 18, 2025

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Dear Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee,

Clean Water Action supports SB591 to streamline and enhance electronic device recycling efforts in the state.

E-waste remains a persistent problem, and e-waste is particularly toxic when disposed of in the general waste stream. Heavy metals and toxic chemicals - like mercury, lead, and flame-retardants - used in electronic manufacturing are best disposed of properly in proper recycling facilities. SB591 allows MDE to set certifications to ensure responsible management of electronics containing hazardous materials.

Increasing recycling rates and improving the handling of hazardous materials are important steps to reducing harm in our waste system and improving responsible stewardship.

For these reasons we urge a favorable report.

Best,

Emily Ranson
Chesapeake Regional Director
Clean Water Action
eranson@cleanwater.org

145 W Ostend Street
Suite 600
Baltimore, MD 21230

SB0591 Howard County Written Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Gina Van De Walle
Position: FAV

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

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

Favorable

Good afternoon Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

My name is Gina Van De Walle, a Recycling Coordinator, here on behalf of Howard County. I have direct experience managing Howard County's electronics recycling contract.

During the past decade, the economics of managing electronics recycling programs have been challenging for local governments, including Howard County. Since 2012, Howard County has recycled nearly 15 million pounds of electronics received at our public drop-off site, costing more than $1.6 million to do so.

I am also aware that many of my colleagues in other counties have been unable to obtain the funding needed to sustain full electronics programs during the past 10 years, and have been left with no other choice but to landfill these devices. Thus, I am here, not only to ensure Howard County's recycling program is set up for permanent success in the future, but also in solidarity with my colleagues to receive needed funding to reinstate the full programs they once had.

Howard County has already experienced battery related fires in our electronics public drop off area, including two fires in 2024, and six fires on curbside trash and recycling routes. This bill will provide us with thermal imaging, fire detection and 24/7 monitoring technology, as well as suppression equipment to catch these events before they become fires and help us safely extinguish them when they do occur. It will also provide electronic device labeling with recycling information to educate our residents and minimize these Lithium-Ion fires on our curbside collection routes. Lithium-Ion Battery fires are not regular fires, but toxic chemical ones. We want to ensure workers who manage these materials have all the tools necessary to keep themselves safe and protect our recycling infrastructure.

Thus, we ask for your support on SB 591.

Thank you for your time and consideration today.

Sincerely,

Gina Van De Walle, Recycling Coordinator, Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services

Gina Van De Walle

SB591_FAV_Trash Free Maryland_021825-1.pdf
Uploaded by: Kelly Doordan
Position: FAV

TRASH FREE MARYLAND

Bill: SB591 - Environment - Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program - Establishment (Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act)
Date: February 18, 2025
Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

We enthusiastically support the goal of overhauling and modernizing Maryland's electronic recycling program and we greatly appreciate the leadership of the sponsor in this regard.

Trash Free Maryland supports SB591, which updates the current electronics recycling program and provides sustainable funding to local government electronics recycling programs. This removes some of the financial burden from jurisdictions for safely managing the growing quantities of used electronics. Importantly, this bill also establishes a flexible framework to consider future electronics recycling needs and establishes an advisory body to support informed analysis and recommendations for continuous improvements, including eventual targets for convenience and access to drop-off, mailback, and curbside electronics pickup for electronic devices that are no longer wanted or functional.

At present, many Marylanders live outside of jurisdictions that are able to provide free electronics drop-off programs to residents. Without accessible electronics recycling options, some electronics may be mismanaged - disposed or dumped - rather than recycled. Improper management of electronic devices poses environmental and fire safety risks, endangers workers in our waste and recycling programs, and also means valuable materials and components are destroyed or lost rather than recirculated in the economy.

We are pleased to see that the cost for administration and program oversight will be shifted from the public sector to the manufacturers (via the covered electronic device manufacturer registration fee account). We would like to see this concept expanded – perhaps by tasking the advisory committee with studying and making recommendations for future consideration of how the state could implement electronics producer responsibility concepts that will help shift some of the costs for recycling from consumers upstream to producers to incentivize environmental considerations in product design – especially since many electronic products become obsolete through no choice made by consumers.

We thank everyone involved in this effort for taking the initiative to begin the badly needed update of the electronic recycling program in Maryland

We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB591.

Contact:
Kelly Doordan, Executive Director, Trash Free Maryland
kelly@trashfreemaryland.org

Maryland Recycling Network Testimony Favorable - S
Uploaded by: Kitty McIlroy
Position: FAV

February 14, 2025

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

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

Favorable

As current President of Maryland Recycling Network (MRN), I am writing in support of SB0591. I bring my experience managing electronics recycling contracts over the last 11 years at the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority. I am not speaking on behalf of the Authority.

Maryland Recycling Network members include public recycling managers, private sector and non-profit recyclers and individuals who support recycling. We promote sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling (the 3 "R's") of materials otherwise destined for disposal and the purchase of products made with recycled material content. We achieve these goals through education programs, advocacy activities to affect public policy, technical assistance efforts, and the development of markets to purchase recycled materials and manufacture products with recycled content.

We have direct experience operating recycling and composting programs in the private sector and municipal government level. We know the ins and outs of recycling in Maryland. Our experience informs our comments.

We thank Senator Augustine for sponsoring this bill.

Maryland's electronics recycling law is outdated and does not fund recycling.

Electronics recycling plummeted in the market downturn of 2014, and has not recovered. Our state went from recycling over 19,000,000 million residential pounds per year, to under 6,000,000 pounds in recent years. That sharp decline kicked off in 2014, when municipal contracts began to see costs for the first time. Most programs stopped recycling televisions and computer monitors, the bulk of e-waste collected.

Now, Maryland has 21 years left of landfill capacity. There is an urgent need to ramp up recycling.

Maryland Recycling Network
c/o Mariner Management • PO Box 1640 • Columbia, MD 21044
Phone: (443) 741-8740 • www.MarylandRecyclingNetwork.org

Only ~eight of 23 Counties recycle all electronics year-round, without drop off fees.

Six jurisdictions in Maryland have spent over $8,000,000 since 2014 to run these programs. Three of those six jurisdictions had limited programs in place, meaning total program costs would have far exceeded $8,000,000 if they had been recycling their televisions and computer monitors, which they were not.

This is unsustainable.

This bill will take that financial burden off taxpayers and local government, and fully fund both collection sites and recycling operations, while manufacturers will continue to fund MDE's administration. It will insulate programs from unpredictable commodity markets, inflation and economic downturns.

It will grow local jobs and increase our domestic supply of rare earth minerals and precious metals for the auto, jewelry, electronics and clean energy industries.

It will allow jurisdictions to divert much needed tax revenues to other critical public sector services, eliminate fees at public collection sites, and expand programs, especially for rural and underserved areas.

Fires have already occurred at County electronics collection sites. We need to protect our essential workers, first responders, and recycling infrastructure. This bill will do that.

It will address the severe human health and safety issues from toxic chemical battery flammable gas, smoke, fire and explosion incidents (which have been fatal, even from inhalation). Battery fire incidents have been exponentially increasing in Maryland and across the country and world. The bill would fund heat spot (thermal imaging), fire and smoke detection, suppression and extinguishing equipment and monitoring and notification systems at electronics collection sites to limit these events and stop thermal runaway when they do occur. These incidents severely impact and endanger site staff, capital infrastructure like MRFs, transfer stations, collection trucks/drivers, other processing equipment, insurance rates (limiting capability to even be insured), in addition to first responders, who continue to receive more and more call outs due to battery fires.

Overall, this is a true shared responsibility model among government, consumers, retailers and producers, with broad support from government, private sector, electronics recyclers, solid waste associations, environmental nonprofits.

Maryland Recycling Network
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Phone: (443) 741-8740 • www.MarylandRecyclingNetwork.org

Maryland already has this type of program for tire and paint recycling. This bill complements those laws, to ensure difficult material is responsibly managed.

Maryland has proven itself to be a leader, by passing the 3rd e-waste law in the country, back in 2005. We are asking you to lead once again, and finish building on what is already in place.

Sincerely,

Kitty McIlroy
President
Maryland Recycling Network

The Maryland Recycling Network stands ready to serve as a sounding board and resource for legislators and others interested in pursuing our mission. Please do not hesitate to contact MRN via email phoustle@marylandrecyclingnetwork.org, phone 301-725-2508 or mail - MRN, PO Box 1640, Columbia MD 21044 if you have any questions or would like additional information regarding the above. We look forward to working with you to improve Maryland's recycling programs and thank you for your consideration and support.

Background

Per recent experience:

-Testified before the U.S. Senate, Environment and Public Works Committee, on *"Improving Capacity for Critical Mineral Recovery through Electronic Waste Recycling and Reuse"* (July 2023);

-Co-Chair of the Solid Waste Association of North America's (SWANA) Lithium-Ion Battery Advocacy & Public Policy Sub-Workgroup (July 2024-Present), Member of the SWANA Lithium-Ion Battery Communications & Outreach Sub-Workgroup (July 2024-Present), and Member of the SWANA Lithium-Ion Battery Facility & Vehicle Safety Sub-Workgroup (July 2024-Present);

-Advisor at the U.S. EPA In-Person Working Session focused on Mid-Format Consumer Battery Labeling and Collection (January 2025); and

-Member of The Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland (House Bill 468/Ch. 950, 2024 and SB 532/Ch. 949, 2024) and two of its Subcommittees (2024-Present):

1) The Prevent, Detect and Suppress Lithium-Ion Fires at Recycling Facilities Subcommittee; and

2) The Reusing, Recycling and Decommissioning Lithium-Ion Batteries Subcommittee;

Please see the background information presented below for further consideration:

As Maryland landfills its end-of-life electronics, we are losing rare earth minerals and precious metals every day to our landfills within those electronics, increasing conflict mining, habitat destruction and GHG impacts attributable to sourcing their virgin counterparts.

This causes Maryland and the U.S. to have a dependence on foreign suppliers, thus hurting our domestic stability.

Maryland has a critical need for these resources, in order to build the clean energy infrastructure essential to the state's future.

Due to costs of recycling, approximately only 8 out of 23 Counties/City of Baltimore in Maryland are able to provide to their residents free (at time of drop off), year-round acceptance of all types of municipal electronics for recycling, including flat screen and CRT Glass Tube televisions and computer monitors, historically the bulk of material by weight and volume in the municipal electronics stream. These jurisdictions include Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Calvert County, Charles County, Howard County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County and Somerset County. The existing Statewide Electronics Recycling Program (SERP) has been unable to provide the funding needed for local government to run these programs. This means millions of pounds of electronics are likely being landfilled every year. Detail on the existing SERP shortfalls can be found here.

MDE provided a space for government and industry (retailers and manufacturers) to discuss electronics recycling and the current law during the 2015 Electronics Recycling Department

Workgroup. The stakeholders discussed in detail the current requirements and benefits, as well as shortcomings, one of those being the lack of funding directed to municipalities for actual recycling activities.

Maryland Recycling Network then chaired a Workgroup with Member/Non-Member Participation, beginning late 2021, including stakeholders from government and electronic recyclers, to discuss the MDE Workgroup findings and provide a set of policy recommendations to improve the current law. More specifically, stakeholders recommended replicating what is working in other states and applying it to the SERP. Many in both the public and private sector believe a hybrid consumer fee and manufacturer fee can succeed in this state, using California and Canada's consumer fee model to supplement the existing manufacturer fee already in place in Maryland. Stakeholders recommended that rather relying on infrequent grant funding, local government should be provided a sustainable source of funding, for operating collection sites and hiring electronic recyclers. These recommendations became SB0591/HB0931: Environment - Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program - Establishment (Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act)

As noted above, a visible consumer fee to fund a wide variety of electronics recycling programs is well established and commonplace in Canada[1] and California.[2]

A Resolution adopted by The United States Conference of Mayors at their 2017 Annual Meeting, also supports utilizing a visible consumer fee to support electronics recycling.

Additionally, the Pennsylvania Legislature is considering passing a consumer fee (eco fee) to be added to the purchase of electronics to assist in funding electronics recycling in the state. The House Consumer Protection, Technology and Utilities Committee seem to be supportive and described the Bill Sponsor, Representative Lisa Borowski's, efforts as "Herculean."

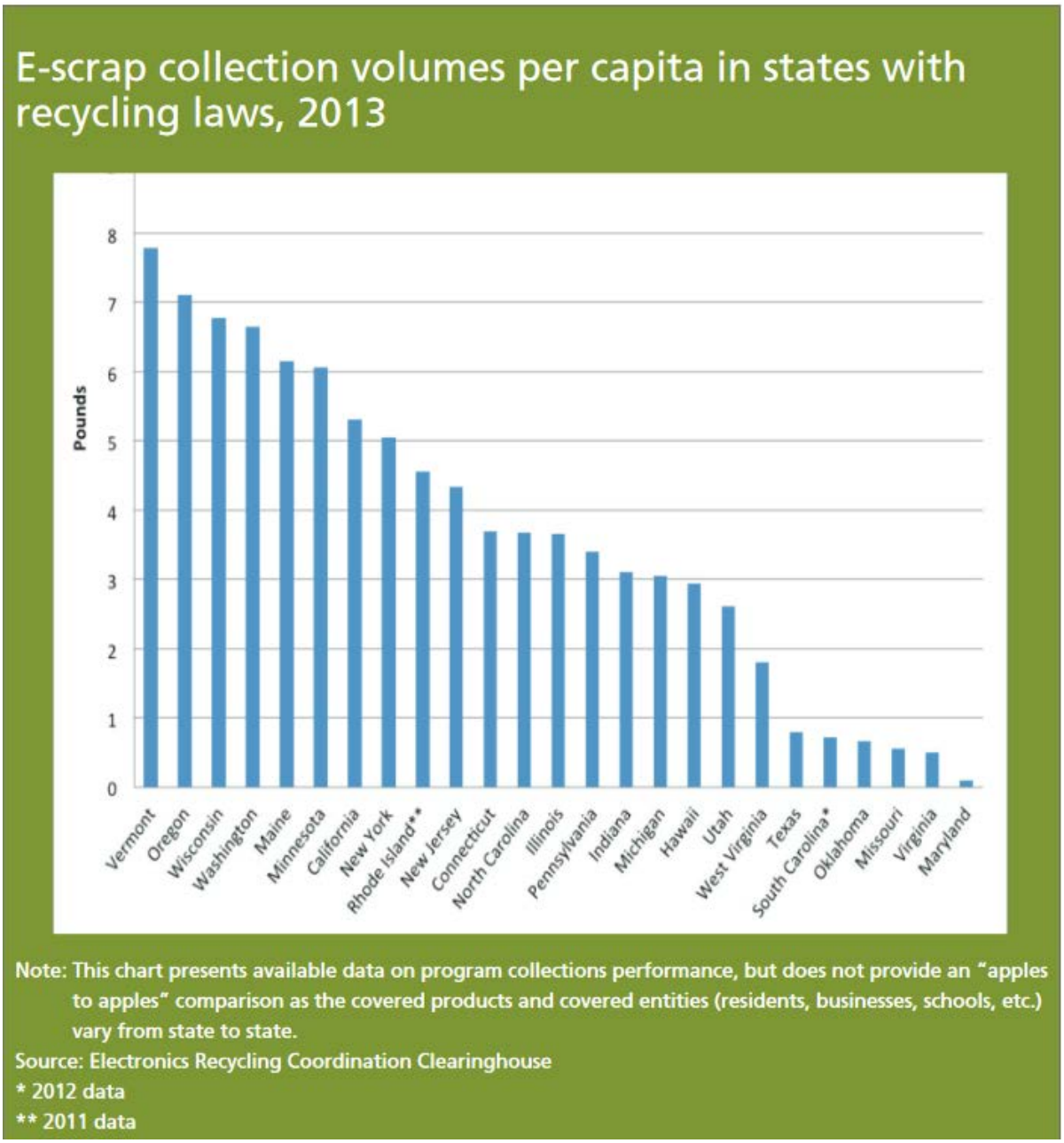
Furthermore, no federal law exists to mandate electronics recycling, and only 25 states along with Washington D.C. have some form of an e-waste law. The United States has not joined 187 countries and the European Commission in ratifying the Basel Convention, an international agreement governing the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal.

As a result of this bill, MDE will be able to maintain a list of Authorized Recyclers eligible for reimbursement, which will increase transparency of national and international shipments of e-waste. Authorized Recyclers will have requirements for themselves and certified downstream markets, in order to guarantee certain environmental standards. This would support stronger environmental protection and prevent unauthorized exports, while creating jobs and supporting economic growth in the state, especially for those local electronics recyclers that operate here in Maryland.

"The proliferation of electronic devices has contributed to the accelerated surge of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in e-waste, according to a new study in Circular Economy. E-waste GHG emissions rose 53 percent between 2014 and 2020. Researchers anticipate e-waste will annually generate 852 million metric tons of CO2 compounds by 2030…Increasing the useful lifespan expectancy of electronic devices by 50%–100% can mitigate up to half of the total GHG

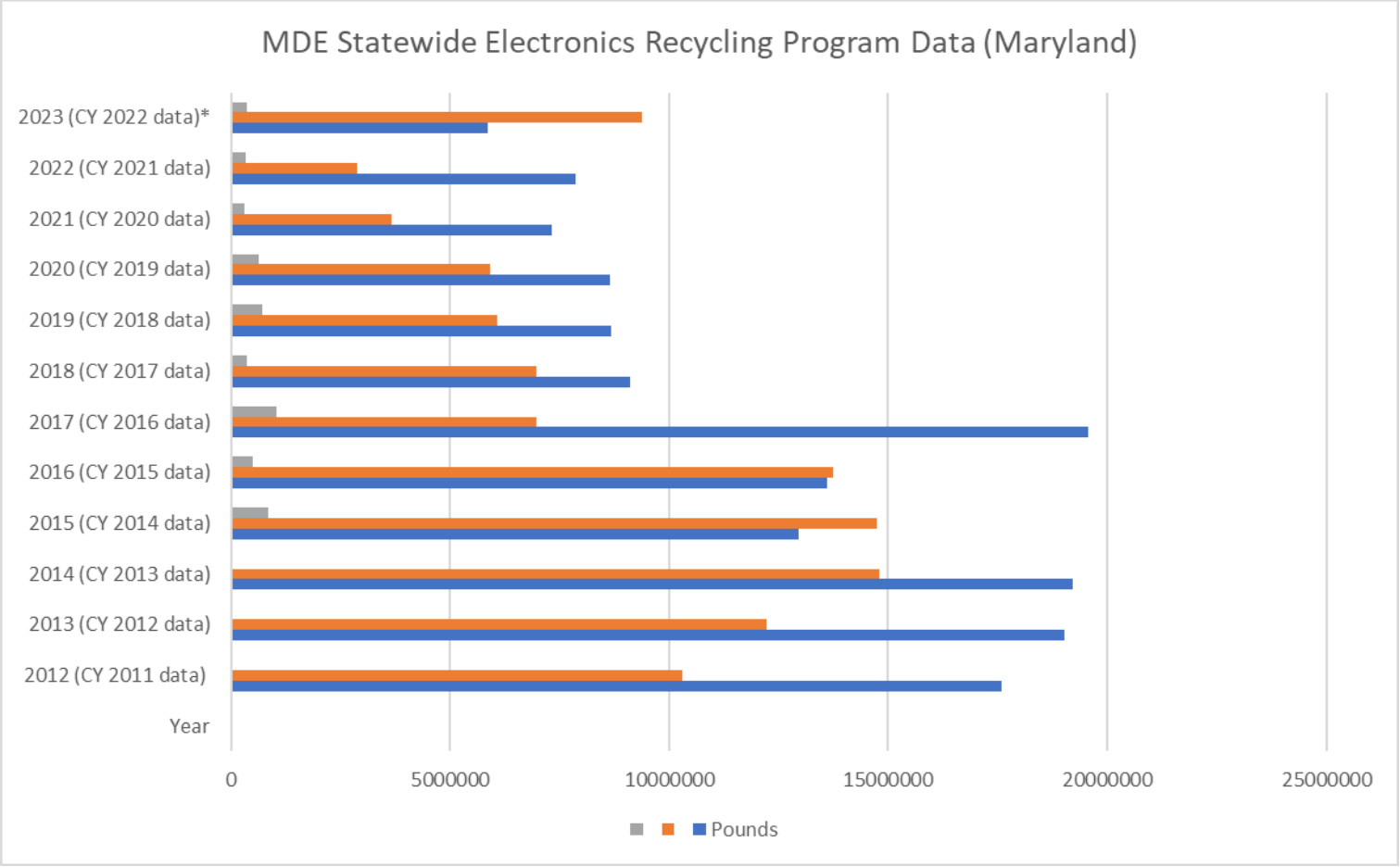
[1] Sources: https://www.return-it.ca/electronics/faqs/elec-consumer/ and https://recyclemyelectronics.ca/bc/what-can-i-recycle and https://recyclemyelectronics.ca/bc/what-is-the-ehf
[2] Source: https://calrecycle.ca.gov/electronics/recyclingfee/

emissions," the study's authors stated. "Such outcomes will require coordination of eco-design and source reduction, repair, refurbishment, and reuse…The current global rate of e-waste recycling stands at 17.4 percent, with Europe and the Americas responsible for the majority of waste generated. The study noted that Europe's recycling rate stands above other countries at 42.5 percent, following by Asia at 11.7 percent and the Americas at 9.4 percent…Researchers found that between 2013 and 2020, "the useful lifespan of average electronic devices such as desktops, laptops, and smartphones decreased by 41%, 22%, and 30%, respectively." Source: E-Waste Emissions Jump 53 Percent Between 2014 and 2020 (waste360.com)



Source: E-Scrap Newsletter Article (March 2015)

MDE Statewide Electronics Recycling Program Data (Maryland)							
	Pounds						
Year	Residential/Municipal Program	Commercial	Manufacturer Program	Manufacturer Program Share of Total Pounds	Residential Program Share of Total Pounds	Commercial Share of Total Pounds	Total Residential, Commercial, Manufacturer Program (Pounds)
2012 (CY 2011 data)	17,591,221	10,302,000	N/A	N/A	63%	37%	27,893,221
2013 (CY 2012 data)	19,033,550	12,214,000	N/A	N/A	61%	39%	31,247,550
2014 (CY 2013 data)	19,208,026	14,808,000	N/A	N/A	56%	44%	34,016,026
2015 (CY 2014 data)	12,949,658	14,736,000	853,400	3%	45%	52%	28,539,058
2016 (CY 2015 data)	13,610,620	13,734,000	512,000	2%	49%	49%	27,856,620
2017 (CY 2016 data)	19,554,907	6,978,000	1,050,000	4%	71%	25%	27,582,907
2018 (CY 2017 data)	9,120,499	6,978,000	371,200	2%	55%	42%	16,469,699
2019 (CY 2018 data)	8,691,452	6,080,000	716,000	5%	56%	39%	15,487,452
2020 (CY 2019 data)	8,656,008	5,910,000	638,100	4%	57%	39%	15,204,108
2021 (CY 2020 data)	7,329,304	3,664,540	312,780	3%	65%	32%	11,306,624
2022 (CY 2021 data)	7,853,593	2,891,080	330,820	3%	71%	26%	11,075,493
2023 (CY 2022 data)*	5,857,420	9,376,220	374,000	2%	38%	60%	15,607,640
Total	**149,456,258**	**107,671,840**	**5,158,300**	**2%**	**57%**	**41%**	**262,286,398**
Source: Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Annual Reports: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/Pages/LandPublications.aspx							
*Source: Email with MDE 2/4/25: Prince George's County collected 164.89 tons in CY 2022 and reported them as commercial.							
For the purposes of this data set, it is being reflected in the residential category (and subtracted from the commercial category).							
As of CY 2022: MDE stopped reporting special municipal events and now just reports total recycling reported by the Counties in the MRA survey.							



Manufacturer fees collected under existing law do not cover costs for local government to operate recycling programs. All grants provided to date are listed below:

MDE Electronics Recycling Grants to Local Government	
Fiscal Year	Total Grants Issued
2008	$190,000
2009	$616,552
2015	$500,000
2016	$250,000

Sources: Maryland Department of the Environment
2015 Electronics Recycling Department Workgroup
news.maryland.gov/mde/2016/07/22/department-of-the-environment-awards-grants-totaling-250000-for-electronics-recycling-in-maryland/

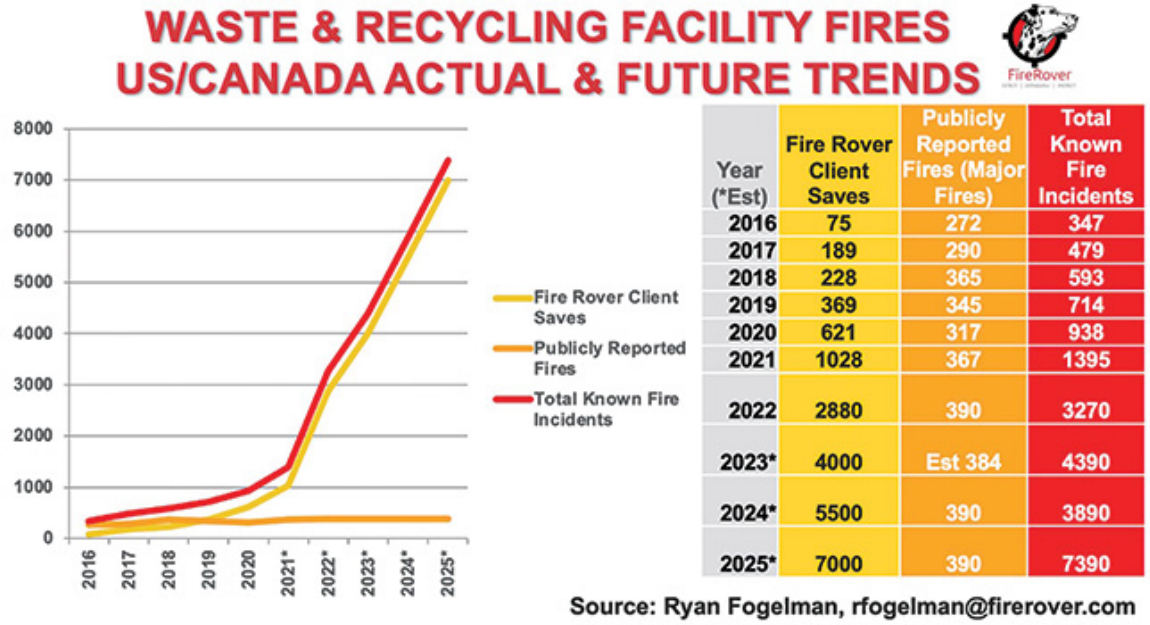
Electronics Recycling Pounds														
	CY 2012*	CY 2013**	CY 2014***	CY 2015	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023^	CY 2024^	**Total**
Anne Arundel County	2,928,311	2,848,253	593,091	550,000	448,433	493,930	478,733	477,788	407,989	395,133	406,000	366,000	352,783	10,746,444
Baltimore City	1,276,791	1,421,668	1,141,000	1,136,000	183,883	171,673	322,965	476,174	564,143	751,910	532,251	288,185	195,611	8,462,254
Baltimore County	3,640,420	3,618,293	841,802	729,653	722,172	650,381	624,480	512,060	604,080	511,520	410,943	556,049	1,011,822	14,433,675
Carroll County	917,006	699,522	133,757	122,861	109,180	108,180	124,300	120,260	138,340	110,960	98,512	75,500	93,920	2,852,298
Frederick County	703,320	619,221	631,160	585,180	352,892	347,780	739,420	245,760	207,580	178,920	177,800	165,020	188,560	5,142,613
Harford County****	314,500	281,260	327,180	244,420	246,740	250,260	252,240	213,680	275,240	230,940	191,620	165,000	128,780	3,121,860
Howard County	1,439,580	1,485,129	1,460,672	1,347,352	1,334,231	1,206,483	992,634	1,165,014	1,108,380	847,880	644,100	648,800	893,970	14,574,225
Montgomery County	3,519,553	3,861,679	3,095,423	3,204,878	3,035,387	2,847,060	2,271,940	2,440,209	2,462,261	2,471,820	2,224,880	1,920,400	2,134,320	35,489,810
Total	**14,739,481**	**14,835,025**	**8,224,085**	**7,920,344**	**6,432,918**	**6,075,747**	**5,806,712**	**5,650,945**	**5,768,013**	**5,499,083**	**4,686,106**	**4,184,954**	**4,999,766**	**94,823,179**
*Total CY 2012 TVs/Computer Monitors under Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County and Carroll County program: 5,029,014 pounds														
**Total CY 2013 TVs/Computer Monitors under Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County and Carroll County program: 5,101,565 pounds														
***Beginning CY 2014, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County and Carroll County no longer recycled TVs/Computer Monitors.														
****2012-2024: Harford County's recyclers sometimes accepted flat screen TVs/Computer Monitors for recycling; but did not recycle CRT glass TVs/Computer Monitors														
^Beginning FY '24 Baltimore County reintroduced TV/Computer Monitor recycling & Baltimore City's program paused due to contract awaiting execution by its Board of Estimates. Baltimore City service did not reinitiate until July 2024.														
Sources: Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority data, Jurisdiction data, and MDE Maryland Recycling Act Report data														

Electronics Recycling Costs to Jurisdictions*														
	CY 2012	CY 2013	CY 2014	CY 2015	CY 2016	CY 2017	CY 2018	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022	CY 2023^	CY 2024^	**Total**
Anne Arundel County	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Baltimore City**	$0.00	$0.00	$101,353.16	Unknown	Unknown	$22,998.93	$90,364.65	$128,671.74	$157,526.67	$210,534.80	$149,030.28	$80,691.80	$66,747.76	$1,007,919.79
Baltimore County	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$126,824.30	$121,773.60	$156,026.90	$170,999.40	$143,225.60	$115,064.04	$89,711.92	$80,945.76	$1,004,571.52
Carroll County	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$20,770.56	$23,865.60	$37,280.60	$42,885.40	$34,397.60	$30,538.72	$18,881.00	$15,027.20	$223,646.68
Frederick County***	$0.00	$0.00	$36,753.16	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	$34,160.64	$28,853.62	$24,869.88	$24,502.02	$20,811.90	$22,627.20	$192,578.42
Harford County	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Howard County	$0.00	$0.00	$211,797.47	$195,366.08	$193,463.50	$193,037.28	$158,821.44	$197,481.16	$188,424.60	$141,089.80	$109,497.00	$53,723.40	$0.00	$1,642,701.73
Montgomery County	$0.00	$0.00	$448,836.35	$464,707.34	$440,131.12	$455,529.60	$363,510.40	$475,527.06	$479,147.72	$482,806.12	$436,059.54	$181,908.58	$0.00	$4,228,163.83
Total	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$798,740.14**	**$660,073.42**	**$633,594.62**	**$819,160.67**	**$758,335.69**	**$1,029,148.10**	**$1,067,837.41**	**$1,036,923.80**	**$864,691.60**	**$445,728.60**	**$185,347.92**	**$8,299,581.97**
*$0.00 refers to either $0.00 in costs or revenues to Jurisdictions and/or program years where Jurisdictions received revenues for their electronics														
**Baltimore City: July 1, 2014-December 31, 2014 cost data is unknown. January 1, 2017-September 30, 2017 cost data is unknown														
***Frederick County: July 1, 2014-December 31, 2014 cost data is unknown.														
^Beginning FY '24 Baltimore County reintroduced TV/Computer Monitor recycling & Baltimore City's program paused due to contract awaiting execution by its Board of Estimates. Baltimore City service did not reinitiate until July 2024.														
Sources: Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority data and Jurisdiction data														

SB0591/HB0931 will provide funding for collection sites to hire staff and implement heat spot (thermal imaging) and fire detection and suppression technology, a critical safety measure as facility fires from lithium-ion batteries continue to increase.

It will relieve overburdened collection site staff (as many sites are understaffed). It funds staff dedicated solely for receiving and packaging all types of electronics. Workplace safety will improve, especially related to stacking and palletizing large, heavy electronics that have tipping risks when there are not enough staff to assist. Additionally, dedicated staff will be able to properly monitor and orderly pack electronics dropped off from the public, ensure battery embedded electronics are properly stored (so they are not inadvertently crushed in collection containers, etc.), and be able to identify and safely segregate and contain Damaged, Defective, or Recalled (DDR) battery embedded products for special handling collection contractors.

This will prevent recycling workers and first responders from ending up with health issues and death incidents from thermal runaway events, including exposure to lithium-ion battery toxic chemical flammable gas production, smoke, explosion, internal pressure rise, vapor cloud and fire.[3]



Year (*Est)	Fire Rover Client Saves	Publicly Reported Fires (Major Fires)	Total Known Fire Incidents
2016	75	272	347
2017	189	290	479
2018	228	365	593
2019	369	345	714
2020	621	317	938
2021	1028	367	1395
2022	2880	390	3270
2023*	4000	Est 384	4390
2024*	5500	390	3890
2025*	7000	390	7390

Source: Ryan Fogelman, rfogelman@firerover.com

"Then came the lithium-ion battery threat that revealed itself in 2018 in the form of increased fire incidents across the globe…This problem is not going away. In fact, the number of lithium-ion batteries forecasted to enter the waste and recycling streams is only growing along with hotter and dryer environments, which leads to a breeding ground for increased fire incidents… The

[3] *Source: Information on Thermal Runaway described above was covered at the December 5, 2024 *Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland* meeting. James Milke (Ph.D., FSFPE, Professor Emeritus, University of Maryland, Senior Principal Engineer) presented to the Commission an "Overview of Lithium-Ion Battery Hazards and Protection Strategies."

goal is not just to catch a fire when there are flames, but also to understand that there are situations where hot spots can be cooled before they flame. The goal is to set the tripwire as early in the process as possible. This can be done through top-grade thermal detection in combination with smoke, optical flame detection, and advanced data analytics—all coupled with a highly trained agent who is able to weed through false positives to fight only the incidents that need fighting… 2022 was (and 2023 is forecasted to be) the worst year for reported fire incidents …we are heading down a path where investments in solutions like the Fire Rover are considered 'critical' to successfully responding to the fire hazards that continue to hit our waste and recycling streams. We need a funding mechanism like the government or the battery manufacturers to help pay for the costs they have created... Investing in proper equipment for the fire department to use onsite can be a huge timesaver and lifesaver. Even going as far as having attached and rollout hoses so the firefighters can immediately start applying suppressant to the affected area can make a huge difference"

Source: Keys to Building a Successful MRF: Before, During, After - Waste Advantage Magazine)

Additional Details of SB0591 & HB0931

1) Establishes a shared responsibility model among local government, MDE, manufacturers, consumers and retailers to fully fund electronics recycling statewide. The bill will insulate programs from unpredictable commodity markets, recession and inflation, to fully fund both collection sites and recycling operations, while manufacturers will fund MDE's administration.

2) Establishes a California and Canada modeled consumer fee (advanced recovery fee, environmental handling fee, or eco fee) at the point of purchase of a new covered electronic device (CED) in Maryland, to fund Authorized Collectors and Authorized Recyclers. The Comptroller of Maryland shall collect the fees and distribute them to MDE in a dedicated account, less the cost of their administration to do so. MDE shall have authority to amend/expand these definitions and fees, and create additional Tiers, as needed:

a. Tier 1 CEDs have a fee, to be determined by MDE for a computer monitor, television or video display device.

b. Tier 2 CEDs have a fee, to be determined by MDE, for a laptop computer, personal digital assistant, notebook, reader, tablet device, cell phone, central processing unit of a computer, printer, scanner, facsimile machine, copier, and any other computer or electronic device or accessory that has a plug or battery that is designated as a Tier II CED by MDE.

3) Authorized Collectors (such as local government or retailers) are eligible to be reimbursed for the costs of end-of-life CED on-site collection, storage, equipment, heat spot (thermal imaging) and fire detection and suppression systems and equipment, transportation, staffing, and education. Per further Advisory Council feedback and MDE evaluation and determination, additional costs that may be eligible for reimbursement could include mailback and curbside collection programs for residential homes, etc., to further incentivize convenience and participation in the program.

4) Authorized Recyclers are eligible to be reimbursed for CED collection, transportation, recycling, refurbishment and reuse.

5) Authorized Collectors and Authorized Recyclers are required to accept CEDs with no charge to the public (residents and businesses). Manufacturers are not eligible to participate in the program nor act as Authorized Collectors and receive reimbursement, unless they are also retailers and have physical takeback locations in state that accept all makes and models of CEDs. Manufacturers are encouraged to continue managing their own recycling programs, independent of the SERP as well.

6) Terminates the scarcely used manufacturer takeback programs as option under the SERP (which currently allow for reduced annual fees).

7) Reallocates existing annual manufacturer fees to solely fund MDE's administration of the statewide program including certifying and distributing funds to participating Authorized Collectors and Authorized Recyclers, as well as auditing, enforcement and education. MDE shall have the ability to alter the manufacturer fees as needed, in order to adequately fund the administration of the program.

8) MDE shall have the ability to hire a third-party entity to administer the program, as some nonprofits already administer electronics programs on behalf of state departments and are experts in doing so.

9) It will provide stronger environmental protections by authorizing MDE to establish:
a. Baseline of participating Authorized Recycler requirements and certifications, as needed.
b. Baseline of participating Authorized Collector requirements and certifications, as needed.

10) Authorizes MDE to establish reasonable caps on reimbursement rates for participating Authorized Recyclers and Authorized Collectors

11) Establishes an Advisory Council made up of a variety of stakeholders to continuously evaluate and recommend program updates to MDE, as needed. MDE maintains ultimate authority over the SERP.

Summary

SB0591 & HB0931 Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act shall:

(1) cover the costs of existing programs that local government is currently paying to recyclers to accept electronics
(2) allow jurisdictions to retract existing electronics recycling tipping fees placed on their residents;
(3) allow jurisdictions to expand financially restricted programs by providing the funds to cover recycling of previously excluded electronics that were ending up disposed; and
(4) Expand green collar jobs due to new demand for staffing at collection sites and recycling facilities.

These updates will fully support and fund electronics recycling operations, infrastructure and administration statewide, incentivizing a system of convenience and accessibility for all Maryland residents and businesses to be able to participate equally, especially underserved rural and urban areas.

SWANA Testimony SB0591 Favorable_Feb 2025.pdf
Uploaded by: Kristyn Oldendorf
Position: FAV

SWANA
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

February 14, 2025

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Re: SB0591 Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program – Establishment (Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act)

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) appreciates the opportunity to support SB0591. SWANA is an organization of 10,000 public and private sector professionals committed to advancing from solid waste management to resource management through a shared emphasis on education, advocacy, and research. Our members include the individuals collecting and transferring materials, running recycling facilities, managing landfills, providing residential recycling services and outreach, and overseeing solid waste departments, among many other job functions throughout the industry.

Electronic waste is one of the fastest growing waste streams in the world and is costly to properly manage. Electronic waste needs to be collected, stored, and transported separately from mixed trash and recycling for safety and environmental protection.

SB0591, if adopted, would result in many benefits, including improving safety for professionals in waste and resource management. Lithium-ion batteries embedded in consumer electronic products are posing significant fire hazards at collection sites, within collections vehicles, at transfer stations, and at recycling and metal processing facilities. Fires caused by lithium-ion batteries have been increasingly common as consumers mistakenly discard a variety of electronics in household trash or recycling.

In January 2025, SWANA and the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) released a joint policy statement on the critical issue of proper lithium-ion battery disposal and the threat to the waste and resource management industry (https://swana.org/news/swana-news-archive/article/2025/01/14/NWRA-and-SWANA-Partner-to-Address-Lithium-Ion-Battery-Disposal-Challenges). In addition, SWANA and UL Standards & Engagement published an op-ed citing the need for proper battery collection and recycling (https://www.recyclingtoday.com/news/battery-fires-threaten-waste-management-workforce-clean-energy-transition/).

SWANA's first strategic goal is to make the industry safer, and our strategic plan specifically includes the need to address lithium-ion batteries, as they are a growing safety risk for workers in the industry. SB0591 will help mitigate this risk by allowing consumers to have options for proper recycling. The proposed legislation would provide funding for electronics collection sites to implement heat spot and fire detection and suppression technology. This technology has proven highly effective in preventing fires from spreading out of control, which is essential for the safety of residents using the sites as well as the employees working there.

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SWANA
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

Municipalities often bear the cost of collecting and disposing of this material. Many of SWANA's public sector members often speak of the challenges of the increasing cost obligations to manage their waste and recycling operations. A county or city may not be able to provide convenient and accessible electronic waste recycling options to residents within their limited budgets.

Only approximately 8 out of 23 counties in Maryland (including the City of Baltimore) currently provide free, year-round acceptance of all types of municipal electronics for recycling to their residents. The proposed Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act would provide new funding sources for collection sites and recycling operations, providing financial relief for the public sector. This will allow more counties to establish electronics recycling programs and will allow counties that currently provide programs to utilize that funding for other critical needs for residents.

Electronic waste recycling has great potential if performed properly. Electronics contain critical minerals which are "essential to the economic or national security of the U.S. and whose supply chain is vulnerable to disruption" (https://www.commerce.gov/tags/critical-minerals).These materials are not easily substituted and have a supply risk, making it critical to recover these materials through recycling so that they can continue to be reused. The list of critical materials includes cobalt, lithium, graphite, and several other minerals that are common in batteries, electronics, and LCD screens.

In addition, many electronics contain mercury, lead, and flame-retardant chemicals which have the potential to negatively affect human health and the environment if not properly managed. If these materials end up in a landfill or incinerator, those facilities will have the additional cost burden of treating their leachate and emissions to appropriately manage these materials. These facilities are heavily regulated by the EPA and the State of Maryland, and they work hard to abide by the regulations and permit requirements. Diverting electronic waste from these facilities will be beneficial for all stakeholders. Under the proposed legislation, a list of Authorized Recyclers eligible for reimbursement would be available, enabling greater accountability and transparency into the end of life of these materials.

SWANA commends the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee for considering SB0591 and supports passage of this bill. If you have any questions about these comments, or about SWANA, please contact Kristyn Oldendorf, SWANA's Director of Public Policy, at koldendorf@swana.org or 240-494-2237.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristyn Oldendorf

Kristyn Oldendorf
Senior Director of Public Policy and Communications
Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)

SB591_MDSierraClub_fav 18Feb2025.pdf
Uploaded by: Martha Ainsworth
Position: FAV

SIERRA CLUB
MARYLAND CHAPTER

P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: **Education, Energy, and the Environment**
Testimony on: **SB591 "Environment – Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program – Establishment"**
Position: **Support**
Hearing Date: **February 18, 2025**

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club supports SB 591, which aims to update Maryland's existing code to provide increased funding for collection, recycling, refurbishment, and reuse of covered electronic devices. The program would be administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The costs of administering the program would be financed through registration fees paid by manufacturers; the costs of collecting and recycling electronic devices would be funded by an assessment added to the price of new electronic devices. The bill also establishes an Advisory Council of stakeholders to advise MDE on implementation and other aspects of the program.

The problem
Disposal of electronic devices, including computers, computer monitors, televisions, tablets, cell phones, scanners, and copiers can pose environmental and public health risks. Cathode ray tubes (CRTs), glass tubes, flat screen televisions, and computer monitors contain mercury, lead, and flame-retardant chemicals. Liquid crystal display (LCD) and plasma screens contain lead, cadmium, chromium, antimony, beryllium, and brominated flame retardants. Disposal of these and other electronic devices also wastes resources, as many contain valuable materials, like copper, gold, and aluminum that could be reused. Reusing these recovered electronic components reduces the need for virgin materials in new products, and their associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Maryland's existing electronics recycling program
Maryland has had an electronics recycling program since 2005, but the funding for the program as originally designed – based entirely on registration fees paid by manufacturers – has not been sufficient to reimburse local governments for the cost of collection and recycling. Since 2008, the program has been able to reimburse local governments for only four years, and the amount of the reimbursement in those years was inadequate to cover their costs. Around 2014, adverse market conditions led many local governments to stop accepting TVs and computer monitors in their electronics recycling programs because they are among the most expensive to recycle. Between 2013 and 2021, residential electronics recycling in Maryland fell by more than half, from 19.2 million pounds to 7.8 million pounds.[1] As a result, many more electronic devices are being landfilled.

According to county recycling websites, as of February 2024 only seven counties[2] and Baltimore City provided year-round collection of all electronic devices, including TVs and monitors, with no drop-off charge. Even in those jurisdictions, there was no convenience standard set for public access to electronics recycling in the existing program: Three of the eight provided electronics recycling at only a single site countywide.

Updating the program
SB591 aims to update the electronic device recycling system to ensure the financial sustainability and effectiveness over the long term. In the process, the bill will improve public access to electronics

[1] Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Annual Reports, 2014-2022.
[2] Baltimore, Calvert, Charles, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Somerset counties. Frederick and Washington counties provide the same services but charge a drop-off fee. Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties have only a single drop-off site. See Exhibit 1.

recycling and reduce the environmental impacts of discarded electronic devices. There are several commendable features of this bill that are well-positioned to achieve these objectives:

- It puts in place a sustainable source of financing linked to the program's costs. Manufacturers will pay a registration fee to MDE that is pegged to the actual costs of administering the program, among other factors. Consumers will pay for the costs of collecting and recycling the products they purchase in the form of an assessment added to the purchase price of the electronic device, again pegged to the actual cost of collecting and recycling the items. Those revenues are then distributed to the authorized electronics recyclers and collectors. The program's funds are held in a separate account to be used only for the program.
- The program is administered by MDE, but the Department may also administer it through a contractor.
- The program will expand access to electronic device recycling. It authorizes MDE and the Advisory Council to evaluate the current accessibility of recycling drop-off sites for electronic devices and to develop a convenience standard across the state.
- The program launch has been accelerated by one year, to minimize the continued detrimental impacts of landfilling and other disposal of electronic devices due to inadequate finance. The collection of fees would be launched in 2027, and disbursements to collectors and recyclers in 2028.
- Diverse views are solicited from the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council is charged with making recommendations on a long list of important program issues. It is not required to issue consensus recommendations; the process for reporting recommendations will provide MDE with diverse views from the various constituencies on the Advisory Council.

The Sierra Club enthusiastically endorses these improvements introduced by SB 591, which will provide adequate and sustainable financing for the electronic devices recycling program, increase access of the public to recycling services, and improve program effectiveness.

The Maryland Sierra Club commends the bill sponsor and the Maryland Recycling Network for their initiative on this bill and respectfully requests a favorable report on SB591.

Martha Ainsworth
Chair, Chapter Zero Waste Team
Martha.Ainsworth@MDSierra.org

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

Attachment: Exhibit 1: County Recycling of Electronic Devices, 2024

Exhibit 1: County Recycling of Electronic Devices, 2024

County	Collected?	Fee?	Frequency?	Notes
Allegany	No	N/A	N/A	Provided by Penn-Marr Recycling company, w/a fee for some products, M-F, 8-4
Anne Arundel	Yes	No	M-F, 7:30am - 4pm	Drop off at three recycling centers
Baltimore City	Yes	No	M-Sat, various hours	Five Citizen's Convenience drop-off centers, six days/week 9am-5pm (3), 7:00am-3:30pm, 7am–5pm
Baltimore County	Yes	No	Mon-Sat, 7:30 am-3:30 pm	Three drop-off centers
Calvert	Yes	No	Mon-Sat, Sun	Six Convenience Centers & landfill, all open Mon-Sat, a few on Sun.
Caroline	No*	N/A	N/A	*Electronics Recycling Day, twice annually, rotates across four counties. (Same county once every two years.)
Carroll	Yes	No	M-F, 7am-4:30pm, Sat 7am-3 pm	Northern Landfill recycling center. Some devices are accepted. However, computer monitors, TVs, and software are treated as trash.
Cecil	Yes	No	Mon-Sat, 7:30 – 3:30	Accepted for recycling at Central Landfill. TVs and monitors not accepted, trashed for fee.
Charles	Yes	No	Mon-Sat	At four recycling centers; Mon-Sat, 7:30 – 5 pm (2 centers); M,W,Sat, 9am-5pm (2 centers)
Dorchester	No	N/A	N/A	
Frederick	Yes	Yes	Mon-Sat, 7am – 4:30 pm	At Citizens' Convenience Center, flat rate of $8 per visit, or by weight at landfill.
Garrett	Yes	No	M,W,F ,7am-6pm; Sat 9-6; Sun 12-6	Six locations. TVs and CRT monitors not accepted.
Harford	Yes	No		May be only one drop-off; website unclear. CRTs, TVs, CRT monitors are not accepted; disposed of as trash, for a fee.
Howard	Yes	No	Mon-Sat 8-4	Collected at Alpha Ridge Landfill drop-off
Kent	No*	N/A	N/A	*Electronics Recycling Day, twice annually, rotates across four counties. (Same county once every two years.) Free.
Montgomery	Yes	No	Mon-Sat, 9 am-5 pm	Drop off at Shady Grove Transfer Station
Prince George's	Yes	No	Thurs-Sat, 8 am-3:30 pm	Only at drop-off site at the Brown Station Road Landfill
Queen Anne's	No*	N/A	N/A	*Electronics Recycling Day, twice annually, rotates across four counties. (Same county once every two years.) Free
St. Mary's	Yes	Yes	7 days/week	Six convenience centers. Console TVs & projection TVs not accepted.
Somerset	Yes	No	M-F, 7:30am -	Drop off at two Public Works sites, M-F, and

County	Collected?	Fee?	Frequency?	Notes
			3pm	once/month Saturdays, 8am – 2 pm.
Talbot	No*	N/A		*Electronics Recycling Day, twice annually, rotates across four counties. (Same county once every two years.) Free
Washington	Yes	Yes	Thurs – Sat, 7:30am – 3:30 pm	At Forty West Landfill, amount of electronics fee not mentioned on website
Wicomico	Yes	No	Daily 6am-6pm	At Newland Park Landfill convenience center. Excludes TVs and computer monitors
Worcester	No*	N/A		*Once yearly household hazardous waste collection accepts computers & laptops, but not TVs.

*No – indicates available once/year or less frequently

Source: County websites, accessed February 17, 2024.

SB0591-EEE-FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Nina Themelis
Position: FAV

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.

PGCex_Support_SB 591.pdf
Uploaded by: Sasha Desrouleaux
Position: FAV

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.

eRevival-Favorable-SB0591 Covered Electronic Devic

Uploaded by: Soni Sunkara

Position: FAV

February 14, 2025

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

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

Favorable

I am Soni Sunkara, a Director with eRevival an electronics recycling company having locations in Maryland and New Jersey. My association with this industry has been for nearly seventeen years experiencing various ups and downs. It has been well documented that the end of life electronics have hazardous materials and are not environmentally safe to landfill them. But the part that has been generally overlooked is that there are costs associated with the recycling of these end of life electronics. Over the years we have seen that in the absence of financial support, a lot of these electronics have been going to the landfill. Even littered on the side of the streets. This is also directly evident from the amount of electronics recycled annually. In order to have a sustainable program, financial support is needed. I support the bill for the reasons elaborated above.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need any further information. I can be reached by email at contact@erevival.com or by phone 800-696-8042. Thank you for your consideration and look forward to a positive outcome.

Sincerely,

Soni Sunkara
Director
eRevival

LS Enterprise Group- SB591 - Favorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Yosef Green
Position: FAV

B2B Mobile Auction

February 18, 2025

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

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

Favorable

My name is Yosef Green and I am an owner of LS Enterprise Group, a local small business electronics recycling company based in Owings Mills, Maryland. We are an R2v3 certified company that has been in the industry for almost a decade. We regularly recycle tens of thousands of units a month and are a business that prides itself on diverting hundreds of thousands of units of otherwise scrapped electronics from landfills. Our networks of vendors, customers, colleagues, and contractors are global and have given us a robust insight into the state of electronics recycling and data security practices worldwide. I am a member of the Reverse Logistics Association, Maryland Recycling Network, and have been affiliated with ITAD, E-Scrap, and been featured in a number of recycling publications.

I am writing in support of SB0591: Environment - Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program - Establishment (Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act) as it provides MDE the authority to establish effective certification requirements for authorized recyclers.

In my opinion the State of Maryland's policies when it comes to protecting consumers, the environment, and even manufacturers leave a lot of room for abuse and exploitation by less than scrupulous peddlers of "recycling services". Although it is true that government agencies require their recycling vendors to be certified in some fashion, there are 2 remaining issues to be addressed.

1) Frequently the scope of the certification is not paid attention to. For example
   a) a certified company wins a contract to recycle medical equipment, but their scope only allows them to handle computers.
   b) A certified company scoped to handle focus materials wins a contract to recycle computers, but data security/sanitization is not in their scope at all.

2) There are no laws in place requiring certified recyclers to be used by consumers, manufacturers, private corporations, or any other level of life cycle of the device.

I can personally attest to a number of times that I was asked to be involved in resolving complications that arose from under-certified "recyclers" or ones with no certifications at all mishandling sensitive end-of-life electronics. They were chosen/won a bid due to their ability t

undercut actual recyclers who needed to figure legitimate expenses into their operating costs. These expenses allowed the certified recyclers to do things like: guarantee focus materials are recycled/reused properly, ensure the security of private data, and guard the physical safety of their employees.

In one such instance CRT monitors were being buried in the ground or abandoned in shipping containers. In another case, data-sensitive products made their way out of the country into the hands of criminals who attempted blackmail and identity theft on the original owners. In a third instance, hospital systems faced potential lawsuits and serious liability when they asked their downstream recycling vendor for proof of destruction of patient files and the under-certified recycling vendor was unable to provide it.

The bottom line is that there needs to be government regulations in place requiring *all* electronics recycling to be done by vetted, certified recycling companies. Globally recognized independently verified certifications **must** be the norm required for a vendor to be allowed to engage in electronics recycling of any kind. Full transparency regarding scope of certification must be regular practice and vetted by all prospective customers. There must be penalties for infractions to motivate unscrupulous vendors to follow the regulations.

A short list of such certifications is R2v3, Rios, and E-Stewards. Supplementary certifications like relevant ISOs must be taken into account as well.

LS Enterprise Group stands ready to work with the State of Maryland in improving the topography of electronics recycling in 2025. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Yosef Green
LS Enterprise Group

MDE SB591 INF.pdf
Uploaded by: Jeremy D. Baker
Position: INFO

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.

Contact: Leslie Gray, Government Relations Officer
Email: leslie.gray@maryland.gov