



**Bill:** HB931 - Environment - Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program - Establishment (Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act)

**Date:** February 26, 2025

**Position:** Favorable

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Boyce, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

We enthusiastically support the goal of overhauling and modernizing Maryland's electronic recycling program and ask for a favorable report on HB931.

This bill updates the current electronics recycling program and provides sustainable funding to local government electronics recycling programs. This would alleviate financial burden from jurisdictions for safely managing 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 is funded by manufacturers (via the covered electronic device manufacturer registration fee account). Electronics recycling will be funded by consumer fees rather than local governments, a giant step in the right direction, and this could be expanded even further upstream for certain electronics – perhaps by tasking the advisory committee with evaluating how the state could implement elements of producer responsibility and environmental design incentives for certain products – 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 electronics recycling program in Maryland. We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB931.

Contact:

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