



Date: February 24, 2026

## **SB 553 - Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland – Reestablishment**

MaGIC Position: **SUPPORT**

Committee: EEE

The Maryland Green Industries Council respectfully submits this testimony in **support** of Senate Bill 553. Our member companies include landscape professionals, lawn care providers, arborists, and allied businesses. These businesses are facing increasing pressure to transition to electric lawn and landscape equipment powered by lithium-ion batteries. Ensuring the safe use, storage, transportation, and recycling of these batteries is therefore essential to both worker safety and public confidence in this technology.

SB 553 re-establishes the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland, directing it to study and recommend best practices to prevent, detect, and suppress lithium-ion battery fires, including those used in consumer and transportation applications and at recycling facilities. This comprehensive review is critical as electric outdoor power equipment becomes more common.

For the green industry, battery safety is not theoretical, it is operational. Crews routinely transport and charge multiple batteries daily in trucks, trailers, and maintenance facilities. While lithium-ion technology has advanced significantly, safe handling protocols, consistent charging standards, and clear end-of-life management guidance remain vital. The Commission's work to integrate federal regulations, emerging industry standards, and best practices will help ensure that contractors and homeowners alike use these products safely and responsibly.

Adoption of electric equipment by Maryland green industries businesses depends on confidence that battery systems are safe throughout their lifecycle. SB 553 directly addresses these concerns by examining reuse, recycling, and decommissioning of lithium-ion batteries and by improving public and first responder education.

The Green Industries Council also appreciates the bill's broad and balanced Commission membership, which includes fire safety experts, recycling professionals, insurance representatives, and industry stakeholders. We would welcome specific involvement from lawn, landscape and arborist professionals. This inclusive structure will ensure that recommendations reflect real-world conditions faced by contractors and equipment users, while also strengthening coordination with emergency responders and safety officials.

SB 553 provides the thoughtful, proactive framework needed to protect workers, businesses, and the public while supporting the responsible growth of electric lawn equipment technologies.

For these reasons, the Maryland Green Industries Council respectfully urges a **favorable report** on Senate Bill 553.

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