



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 553

DATE: February 24, 2026

SPONSOR: Senator Augustine

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)

Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland - Reestablishment

The bill would extend the work of the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland (the Commission). Established following the passage of House Bill 468 and Senate Bill 532 in 2024, the Commission was charged with studying and making recommendations related to several battery safety issues including: best practices and standards to prevent, detect and suppress lithium-ion battery fires in consumer, transportation and utility applications and recycling facilities; best practices and standards for reusing, recycling, and decommissioning lithium-ion batteries; the viability of extended producer responsibility requirements for lithium-ion batteries; training and education for first responders and the public; and other related issues.

The Commission completed a final report on November 25, 2025, summarizing its findings and recommendations related to the aforementioned issues. That report also included a recommendation to extend the Commission's mandate for an additional two years to enable further study of certain complex and emerging issues such as: battery risks at the Port of Baltimore, roads, rail and tunnels throughout Maryland; impacts of battery risks on insurance providers and insurance coverage availability; Maryland's current waste classifications for lithium-ion batteries and how they affect collection, storage, and recycling as well as how this could be better addressed in the permitting and regulation of solid waste facilities; and the integration of pending federal regulations and emerging third-party standards.

Montgomery County staff have participated as members of the Commission to date and support the recommendation to extend the Commission to further study and develop recommendations related to these important issues.

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection respectfully requests that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 553.