



Senate Bill 655

Position: Unfavorable

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: February 24, 2026

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

SB 655 would impose significant new regulatory, financial, and administrative burdens on companies operating in Maryland. The bill establishes a new producer responsibility framework that shifts the operational and financial obligations for the collection and recycling of electronic devices directly onto manufacturers and sellers. As written, the proposal creates uncertainty, increases compliance costs, and risks undermining Maryland's competitiveness in the technology and retail sectors.

Increased Costs for Businesses and Consumers

SB 655 requires manufacturers to join or form producer responsibility organizations, submit detailed plans to the state, pay registration and review fees, and meet performance requirements under threat of sales prohibitions. These mandates will generate substantial compliance costs, particularly for small and mid-sized businesses that lack the administrative infrastructure to manage such programs. Inevitably, these costs will be passed along to Maryland consumers through higher prices on essential electronic products used by families, students, schools, and small businesses.

Supply Chain and Market Disruptions

The bill authorizes prohibiting the sale of devices from manufacturers that fail to meet program requirements. This enforcement mechanism could lead to product shortages, limit consumer choice, and disrupt supply chains—especially for emerging technology companies and smaller producers unfamiliar with Maryland-specific requirements.

Need for Collaborative Solutions

We urge the committee to pursue more balanced and collaborative approaches that expand recycling access without imposing rigid mandates. Incentive-based programs and regional coordination would better support environmental goals while preserving economic growth and innovation.

Maryland's business community remains committed to sustainable practices and responsible product stewardship. However, SB 655, as currently drafted, would place disproportionate burdens on employers, raise costs for consumers, and create unnecessary regulatory complexity. **For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests an unfavorable report on SB 655.**

