SB 655
Uploaded by: Brian Shepter
Position: FAV

HOWARD COUNTY OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE
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February 18, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT of Senate Bill 655**: Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program – Established

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

I want to begin by recognizing the leadership of Senator Malcolm Augustine in sponsoring Senate Bill 655. This critical legislation will help local governments secure the funding and resources needed for a safe, environmentally conscious, and long-term electronic waste management framework.

Over the last decade, the economics of managing electronics recycling programs have been challenging for local governments, including Howard County. Since 2012, Howard County has recycled over 14.5 million pounds of electronics received at our public drop-off site at a cost of over $1.6 million. These statistics represent Howard County's effort to keep electronic waste out of our landfills. But maintaining or even enhancing these efforts will require the legislative support that HB 992 aims to provide.

The handling of electronic waste at our drop-off locations comes with significant safety hazards. Howard County has already experienced battery-related fires in our electronics public drop-off area and on our curbside trash and recycling collection routes. This bill will provide local governments 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.

Unfortunately, electronic waste that is not dropped off for recycling ends up in a landfill. Landfill capacity throughout the state is limited and is slated to run out in 20 years. Funding proposed in this bill will allow local jurisdictions to promote and expand our electronic waste recycling program, thereby diverting waste from landfills.

Finally, there is a significant environmental burden that electronic waste represents, in the form of greenhouse gas emissions. By 2030, 852 million metric tons of CO2 will be generated from electronic waste. This bill will allow for increased funding to facilitate more recycling and reuse.

Howard County respectfully requests the Committee's **favorable report for SB655.**

Thank you,

Calvin Ball
Howard County Executive

SB0655_FAV_MedChi_Electronic Device Producer Respo

Uploaded by: Christine Krone
Position: FAV

MedChi

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Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 24, 2026
Senate Bill 655 – *Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program – Established*
POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland State Medical Society (MedChi), the largest physician organization in Maryland, **supports** Senate Bill 655. Senate Bill 655 promotes a comprehensive extended producer responsibility program for the recycling and management of electronic waste ("e-waste") that holds electronic device manufacturers responsible for the full life cycle of their products, especially for recycling and safe disposal. Because of the ubiquity of electronic devices in modern life, e-waste is a rapidly growing waste stream and an increasingly challenging problem in our waste disposal system and for the environment. According to the World Health Organization, e-waste is one of the fastest-growing waste streams in the world. In Maryland, it's estimated that 20,000 tons of electronics are sent to landfills each year. The improper disposal of e-waste creates three problems: health risks, the waste of valuable resources, and fire safety concerns.

Hazardous substances that are released include lead, mercury, arsenic, polychlorinated biphenyls, hexavalent chromium, polyvinyl chloride, cadmium, flame retardants, selenium, and many others. These toxins can get into our soil, air, and water, leading to health problems, such as respiratory disease, neurological damage, miscarriage, cancer, etc. Like most exposures, the most vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, and those with pre-existing conditions, are at the greatest risk. Another major challenge is that lithium-ion battery fires are becoming increasingly common in Maryland. These fires and fumes are toxic and pose a risk to public and environmental health and safety.

In addition to numerous health risks, e-waste contains valuable metals and rare-earth elements, including gold, silver, copper, palladium, platinum, and cobalt. Discarding these is wasteful and costly. It is estimated that 150 million cell phones are discarded in the US each year. One million cell phones can yield 35,000 lbs. of copper, 772 lbs. of silver, 75 lbs. of gold, and 33 lbs. of palladium. Another example is that one laptop may contain approximately $13.46 in raw material value. When using raw materials, rather than recovered electronic components, the resource extraction and manufacturing processes can contribute to increased pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Maryland has had an e-waste recycling plan based on legislation enacted by the General Assembly (HB575/2005; HB879/2012). These plans have been a good start, but more is needed to keep e-waste out of the waste stream. Since 2014, manufacturers have contributed 6,522,300 pounds of e-waste recycling. By contrast, local governments have recycled 98,811,041 lbs., and the commercial sector (who are not manufacturers) has recycled 75,598,800 lbs. The fiscal and operational burden of this recycling activity falls to local governments, the vast majority of which fund it through local budgets and waste-disposal tipping fees.

Rather than continue to make local governments and taxpayers responsible for these costs, this legislation will shift the burden to the manufacturers of electronic devices. Doing so will result in substantial health, environmental, and safety benefits, as well as more effective management of the life cycles of electronic devices.

Senate Bill 655 builds on past efforts and moves the State forward by creating a practical and sustainable comprehensive program to more responsibly manage waste from electronic devices. On behalf of Maryland's physicians, MedChi urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 655.

For more information call:
Christine K. Krone
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
410-244-7000

SB0655-EEE_MACo_SUP.pdf
Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko
Position: FAV

MARYLAND Association of COUNTIES

Senate Bill 655

Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program - Established

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Date: February 24, 2026

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 655. This bill establishes a statewide framework for a producer-driven electronic device recycling program.

Market trends make clear that Maryland residents will continue purchasing—and ultimately discarding—more electronic devices. Today, the collection and management of many of these materials already occurs through county-operated recycling and solid waste systems. SB 655 would strengthen that infrastructure by recognizing the unique challenges posed by electronic devices, including the potential for landfill and groundwater contamination from embedded batteries, digital visual displays, and other complex components.

The bill would assess fees on electronics producers and use those revenues to better support collection and recycling operations. Importantly, where a producer responsibility organization contracts with a county that already performs both collection and recycling functions, the bill allows reimbursement for both services—supporting program capacity and helping preserve flexibility in local tax dollars.

SB 655 also reflects a key recommendation of the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland, which was established in significant part due to county advocacy. In its 2025 report, the Commission's first recommendation urged the General Assembly to expand extended producer responsibility programs to better address small- and medium-format battery-embedded devices and electronics.

SB 655 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 655 a **FAVORABLE** report.

SB0655_FAV_NWRA_Electronic Device Producer Respons

Uploaded by: Drew Vetter

Position: FAV

Collect
Recycle
Innovate

National Waste
& Recycling Association℠

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 24, 2026
Senate Bill 655 – *Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program – Established*
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 655.

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.

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 655 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
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

SB 655 - MoCo DEP - (GA 26) FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Garrett Fitzgerald
Position: FAV

Montgomery County
Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550 **ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270**

SB 655 **DATE: February 24, 2026**

SPONSOR: Senator Augustine

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT PERSON: Kaley Laleker (kaley.laleker@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)

Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program - Established

This bill would create a producer responsibility program for electronic devices sold in Maryland. The program would require producers to develop, fund, and implement a plan to provide collection, transportation, and recycling of covered electronic devices at no cost to individuals and small businesses.

Electronic devices are important to manage responsibly and separately from trash and regular curbside recycling. Many of these devices contain materials that are harmful if released to the environment. Electronic devices containing batteries significantly increase the risks of fire when improperly included in trash or recycling containers.

In contrast, the separate collection of electronics for proper reuse and recycling has significant environmental benefits. Electronics contain scarce natural resources, such as gold, silver, copper, cobalt, lithium, and rare earth elements. Reuse and recycling minimize the environmental impacts of mining for these metals, reducing associated energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Electronics recycling also creates a secure, domestic source of critical materials, some of which are themselves important to producing clean energy infrastructure, supporting broader climate goals.

Montgomery County collects a broad suite of electronics for recycling at its transfer station and has recently expanded curbside recycling to include on-call collection of electronics and household batteries. The County will begin repair clinics this spring to support electronics repair and reduce waste. Approximately 1.3% of municipal solid waste disposed in Montgomery County is composed of electronics. Electronic waste is projected to grow in the future as the rapid development of artificial intelligence prompts faster turnover of technology.

Montgomery County is fortunate to currently have a no-cost contract for electronics recycling, but spent approximately $4 million on electronics recycling between 2014 and 2023. It is not guaranteed that the County could obtain a no-cost contract during the next

procurement, scheduled for FY2029. The bill would make producers responsible for the proper management of the products they put on the market, as well as for funding public education and ensuring a minimum level of recycling opportunities are available statewide. Importantly, the bill directs producers to enter into agreements with all willing public sector agencies to cover their costs of electronic recycling.

We respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 655.

SB 655 MES SUPPORT.pdf
Uploaded by: Jeff Tosi
Position: FAV

Maryland ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE

Wes Moore **GOVERNOR**
Aruna Miller **LT. GOVERNOR**
Charles Glass, Ph.D., P.E. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Senate Committee on Education, Energy and the Environment
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 655 - Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program - Established

Dear Chair Feldman and Distinguished Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) supports SB 655, which would establish a consumer electronic device extended producer responsibility (EPR) program. The goal of the program is to shift the burden of responsibility of electronic waste from local governments to the manufacturers themselves. This model is designed to modernize the state's aging "takeback" system by holding producers accountable for many types of electronics devices after their useful life has expired. These devices often end up in landfills and are one of the main causes of landfill fires, creating a dangerous condition for landfill operators.

MES operates several types of environmental facilities, including several landfills. Diverting electronics from landfilling would have a significant positive impact for landfill operators like MES.

MES also operates e-waste collection sites in several locations in the State. For informational purposes, here is a breakdown of e-waste volumes at MES-operated facilities:

Harford County
Electronics

1. CY2021 - 117.24 tons
2. CY2022 - 95.81 tons
3. CY2023 - 67.57 tons
4. CY2024 - 64.39 tons
5. CY2025 - 58.25 tons

Midshore (Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline Counties):
Electronics CY 2025 - 65.75 tons

Prince George's County:
Electronics CY 2025 - 14.87 tons

An electronics EPR program will encourage diversion and we expect these e-waste volumes will increase significantly under a fully matured electronics EPR program.

MES would also be a member of the advisory council. Participation on the advisory council will allow MES to contribute operational expertise to the program development.

We appreciate your time and attention to this matter and we urge a favorable report.

Contact: Jeff Tosi, Director of Strategy and Government Affairs
Phone/Email: 410-729-8504 (w) | jtosi@menv.com

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

February 24, 2026

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

Re: SB0655 - Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program

Favorable

As current President of the Maryland Recycling Network (MRN), I am writing in support of SB0655. I bring my experience managing electronics recycling contracts over the last 12 years at the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority. I am not speaking on behalf of the Authority.

Maryland Recycling Network members include public recycling and sustainability 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 approximately 20 years left of landfill capacity, with only about 13 years when factoring in population growth, per MDE. 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

Approximately only 8 of 23 Counties in Maryland 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.

The 2024 MDE Statewide Waste Study found over 41,00,000 pounds of electronics are landfilled in Maryland each year.

All of 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 elements, critical 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.

We've already seen fires at collection sites, MRFs and on solid waste trucks in Maryland. These battery fires burn longer, hotter and are more difficult to extinguish. They escalate much faster, are prone to reignition and can burn for days. We need to protect our essential workers, first responders, and recycling infrastructure. This bill will do that. The updated program will incorporate battery operated devices, as recommended by the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland.

The program will address the severe human health and safety issues from toxic chemical battery flammable gas, smoke, fire and explosion incidents (which can be fatal, even from inhalation). Battery fire incidents have been exponentially increasing in Maryland and across the country and world. Battery fire incidents severely impact and endanger site staff, capital infrastructure like MRFs, transfer stations, waste facilities and landfills, 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.

Maryland Recycling Network
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Maryland now has modern EPR programs for packaging, paper and paint recycling. This bill complements those laws, to ensure the recycling of difficult material and public education is funded.

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

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

Maryland Specific Information

As Maryland continues to landfill its end-of-life electronics, we are losing rare earth elements, critical minerals and precious metals every day to our landfills which leads to having to outsource using virgin materials to produce 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 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.

Beginning late 2021, Maryland Recycling Network chaired a Workgroup with Member/Non-Member Participation, which included 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. These recommendations became SB0655/HB0992 Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program.

Producer funded electronics programs are commonplace and well established in Europe and the United States already. Specifically, SB0655/HB0992 mirrors recent legislative updates in Oregon, Illinois, South Carolina & one underway in Minnesota. It also aligns with work being conducted under an EPA Battery and Battery Device focused EPR workgroup. Specifically, the EPA was first mandated to perform this work by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. In June and July 2022, the EPA conducted widespread outreach to learn about the current state of battery recycling and labeling efforts around the United States. The EPA hosted a series of virtual feedback sessions and issued a request for information to seek input on all battery chemistries (e.g., lithium-based and nickel-metal hydride) and all battery types (e.g., small format primary or single-use and rechargeable batteries; mid-format; large format vehicle batteries, including electric vehicles; and industrial batteries used in manufacturing, commercial businesses, and healthcare operations). The EPA then kicked off the working sessions on March 19, 2024, continuing throughout 2025 and 2026, to develop best practices for small, mid and large format battery recycling and refurbishing, while addressing challenges related to

collection and labeling, ultimately with an end goal of recommending a national EPR framework. This work has been deemed critical enough, and remained a priority under the new federal administration, beginning 2025, due to the importance of securing domestic critical minerals for U.S. energy independence as well as the importance of reducing the rapidly increasing rate of battery caused fires across the U.S.

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.

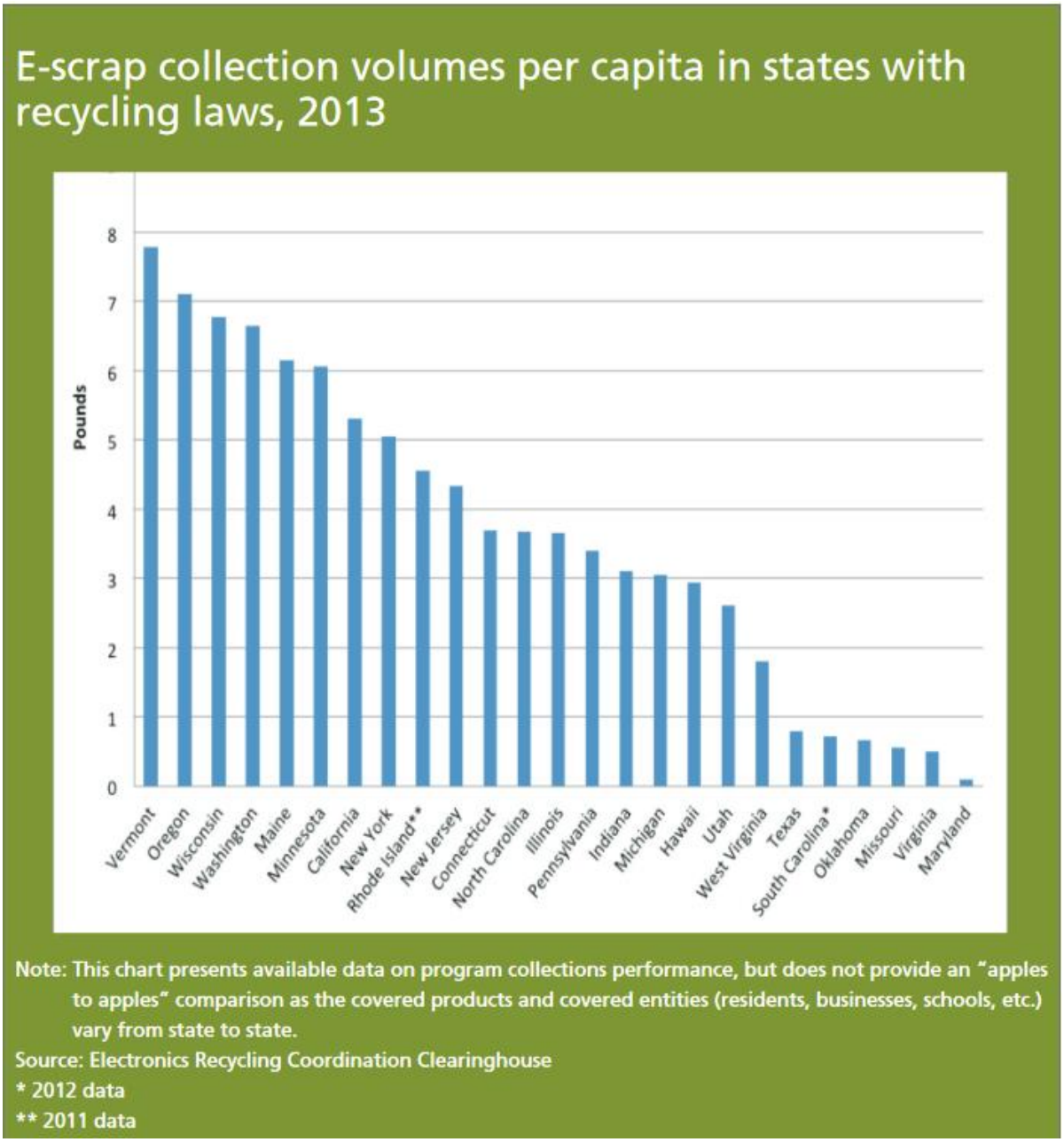
As a result of this bill, MDE will be able to maintain a list of authorized recyclers eligible for participation and funding under the state program, which will increase transparency of national and international shipments of e-waste. Authorized recyclers will have requirements for themselves and certified 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.

Per the 2024 MDE Waste Characterization Study, approximately 41,394,00 pounds of electronics and computer products are disposed of in the state each year, as shown below (page 2-5)[1]

[1] Appendix A - Waste Characterization Study

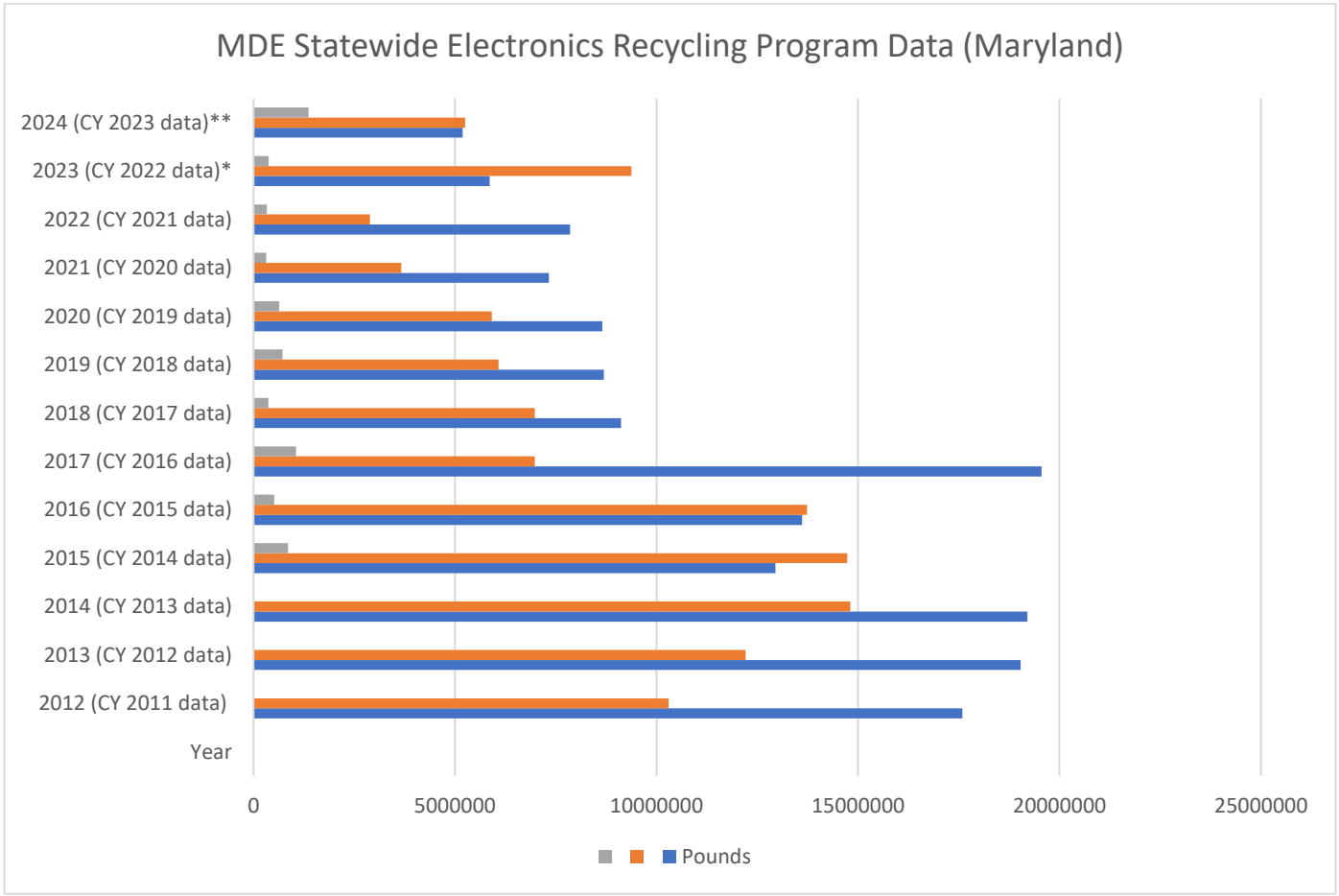
Table 2-1 Unadjusted Statewide Aggregate Disposed MSW Composition

	Material Category	Mean	MOE	Tons		Material Category	Mean	MOE	Tons
	Paper	**26.3%**	**1.4%**	**1,186,369**		**Glass**	**2.5%**	**0.4%**	**111,826**
1	Newsprint	0.2%	0.1%	8,443	1	Clear Glass Containers	1.5%	0.3%	67,468
1	Corrugated Cardboard/Kraft Paper	8.7%	0.9%	391,412	1	Brown Glass Containers	0.4%	0.2%	17,430
1	Magazines	0.4%	0.2%	16,698	1	Green Glass Containers	0.4%	0.2%	17,752
1	Paperboard/Packaging	2.1%	0.4%	93,351	4	Non-Container/Other Glass	0.2%	0.1%	9,176
4	Polycoated/Aseptic Pkg	0.3%	0.1%	13,434		**Organics**	**26.5%**	**2.2%**	**1,192,591**
1	High Grade Office Paper	0.4%	0.2%	19,578	3	Food Waste	18.8%	1.6%	849,756
2	Books	0.1%	0.1%	6,194	3	Grass	0.2%	0.2%	7,403
1	Other Recyclable Paper	1.9%	0.3%	85,962	3	Leaves	2.2%	0.9%	98,779
4	Paper Cups	0.5%	0.1%	23,364	3	Brush, Prunings, and Trimmings	1.3%	0.5%	59,624
3	Compostable Paper	7.7%	0.6%	346,148	4	Other/Non-Compostable Organics	3.9%	0.9%	177,027
4	Non-Recyclable Paper	4.0%	0.5%	181,785		**C&D**	**8.0%**	**2.6%**	**362,135**
	Plastic	**17.9%**	**1.2%**	**807,435**	3	Wood - Clean Lumber	0.2%	1.5%	7,345
1	PET (#1) Bottles/Jars	1.8%	0.2%	80,435	4	Wood - Painted/Treated	1.2%	0.6%	54,458
1	PET (#1) Other	0.5%	0.1%	20,541	2	Wood - Pallets	3.0%	1.2%	134,480
1	HDPE (#2) Bottles - Natural Only	0.4%	0.1%	20,061	4	Non-C&D Wood	0.1%	0.1%	4,725
1	HDPE (#2) Bottles - Colored Only	0.3%	0.1%	12,934	4	Drywall/Gypsum Board	0.2%	0.1%	7,797
1	HDPE (#2) Non-Bottle Containers	0.3%	0.1%	11,700	2	Concrete, Brick, Rock, Other C&D	1.8%	0.7%	79,501
1	PP (#5) Bottles and Containers	1.3%	0.1%	60,534	4	Carpet, Carpet Padding, & Rugs	1.6%	1.4%	73,829
1	PS (#6) Rigid Containers	0.3%	0.1%	13,941		**HHW**	**0.9%**	**0.2%**	**42,124**
1	#3, #4, #7 Products	0.0%	0.0%	1,928	4	Medical Waste & Sharps	0.3%	0.1%	14,388
4	Compostable Plastic Pkg	0.0%	0.0%	171	2	Batteries - Lead Acid	0.0%	0.0%	18
1	Durable Plastic Products	1.3%	0.3%	57,737	2	Batteries - Other Rechargeable	0.0%	0.0%	1,817
4	EPS "Styrofoam" - Food Pkg	0.2%	0.1%	8,483	2	Batteries - All Other	0.1%	0.0%	2,551
4	EPS "Styrofoam" - Non-Food Pkg	0.1%	0.0%	5,144	2	Other Haz Waste/Other HHW	0.5%	0.2%	23,350
2	Clean Commercial Film	1.9%	0.7%	87,837		**Electronics**	**0.5%**	**0.2%**	**20,697**
2	Clean Shopping Bags	0.4%	0.1%	17,371	2	Computers & Electronic Products	0.5%	0.2%	20,697
4	Contaminated/Other Film - Mono	5.2%	0.5%	235,805		**Other**	**14.0%**	**1.5%**	**632,360**
4	Contaminated/Other Film - Multi	1.7%	0.2%	76,513	2	Textiles & Leather Products	3.0%	0.6%	135,226
4	Remainder/Composite Plastic	2.1%	0.4%	96,299	4	Diapers & Sanitary Products	3.9%	0.7%	175,823
	Metal	**3.4%**	**0.5%**	**152,788**	4	Bulky Items	3.5%	0.8%	156,083
1	Aluminum Cans & Containers	0.7%	0.1%	33,543	2	Tires	0.1%	0.2%	5,644
2	Other Aluminum	0.4%	0.1%	17,816	4	Other/Not Elsewhere Classified	2.0%	0.5%	89,426
2	Other Non-Ferrous	0.6%	0.2%	28,022	4	Supermix - Bottom Fines & Dirt	1.6%	0.1%	70,158
1	Tin/Steel Containers	0.7%	0.1%	32,909					
2	Other Ferrous	0.9%	0.5%	40,498		**Total**	**100.0%**		**4,508,325**
						Samples	**110**		
1	*Curbside Recyclables*	23.6%		1,064,357	3	*Compostables/Mulchables*	30.4%		1,369,056
2	*Other Non-Curbside Recyclables*	13.3%		601,023	4	*Not Currently/Widely Recyclable*	32.7%		1,473,889



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
2024 (CY 2023 data)**	5,187,580	5,250,960	1,364,000	12%	44%	44%	11,802,540
Total	**154,643,838**	**112,922,800**	**6,522,300**	**2%**	**56%**	**41%**	**274,088,938**
Source: Maryland Solid Waste Management and Diversion Annual Reports: https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/Pages/LandPublications.aspx							
*Source: Email from 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).							
**Source: Email from MDE 2/6/26: Prince George's County collected 93.52 tons in CY 2023 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^	CY 2025^	**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	387,340	11,133,784
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	412,863	8,875,117
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	896,460	15,330,135
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	100,240	2,952,538
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	199,020	5,341,633
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	116,500	3,238,360
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	901,500	15,475,725
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	2,430,060	37,919,870
Midshore Counties	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	146,940	146,940
Prince George's County	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	29,740	29,740
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**	**5,620,663**	**100,443,842**
*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, MES 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^	CY 2025^	**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	$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	$66,058.08	$1,073,977.87
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	$89,341.80	$1,093,913.32
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	$16,038.40	$239,685.08
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	$23,882.40	$216,460.82
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	$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	$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	$0.00	$4,228,163.83
Midshore Counties	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	$18,000^^	$0.00
Prince George's County	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	$18,000^^	$0.00
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**	**$195,320.68**	**$8,494,902.65**
*$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.															
^^Total cost for electronics recycling in CY25 was ~$36K. The amount reflects electronics collected during HHW events that took place in Midshore/Prince George's Counties, so $36k was split evenly between the two counties for presentation purposes here.															
Sources: Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority data, MES data and Local Jurisdiction data															

Global Electronics Information:

“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 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)

Additionally, “as gadgets are replaced faster, global e-waste is growing five times quicker than it’s formally recycled. The world produced a record 62 million metric tons in 2022. That's expected to climb to 82 million by 2030, according to the United Nations’ International Telecommunication Union and its research arm, UNITAR” American e-waste is causing a 'hidden tsunami' in Southeast Asia, report says.

Health and Safety Specific Information

Lithium-ion battery management is one of the most pressing issues, if not the most pressing issue, in the solid waste management and recycling industry right now.

The solid waste management sector is already consistently ranked as one of the most dangerous, deadliest labor sectors in the United States:

"Waste and recycling collection was fourth deadliest occupation in 2023…The latest Bureau of Labor Statistics data showed an increase in the rate of fatalities for the refuse and recyclable materials collection occupation. The number of fatalities in MRFs also increased… Waste and recycling jobs remain a potentially hazardous occupation, despite ongoing efforts to get out of the top 10 deadliest job category by investing in more safety training and technology for vehicles and facilities. The only occupations that had higher fatality rates in 2023 were logging, fishing and hunting and roofing…Solid Waste Association of North America CEO Amy Lestition Burke said in a statement that the organization was "very disappointed" in the results. "This data reinforces the need for safety improvements. The individuals who collect waste and recycling are making communities livable and sustainable. We all have a role to play to protect these everyday heroes.. "The increase in solid waste collection worker fatalities is concerning, and occurred from coast to coast and at small haulers, the large publicly traded companies, and local governments," said David Biderman, a safety consultant and former SWANA CEO, in an emailed statement that also noted this was one of the highest rates in years. "There are a wide variety of contributing factors to these tragic incidents. We know what these factors are, and need to address them."[2]

"Solid waste collection workers are still on the list of the ten most dangerous jobs. From the truck itself to the collected garbage (***lithium-ion batteries,*** syringes, glass, and chemicals: MSW has a lot of unexpected hazards in store), from distractions like mobile phones to bad weather conditions, from pedestrians to other drivers: The sources of danger are manifold. And more waste means more risks... Safety campaigns and awareness have an effect…SWANA will continue leading industry efforts to reduce them even further and fulfill our Strategic Plan goal of getting solid waste collection workers off the list of the ten most dangerous jobs."[3]

Additionally, the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), the National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA), and the Recycled Materials Association (ReMA) released a joint "Guide for Developing Lithium-Ion Battery Management Practices at Materials Recovery Facilities" to offer practical steps for materials recovery facilities (MRFs) to better identify, manage, and respond to improperly discarded lithium-ion batteries. The guide is available here.

SB0655/HB0992 Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program provides funding for collection sites to hire staff and, per Advisory Council recommendation, 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.

[2] https://www.wastedive.com/news/waste-recycling-worker-fatality-rate-2024/735975/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletter%20Weekly%20Roundup:%20Waste%20Dive:%20Daily%20Dive%2012-21-2024&utm_term=Waste%20Dive%20Weekender

[3] Workplace saftey: Getting waste collection off the list of the most dangerous jobs | WMW

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.[4]

There were 245 fires reported across 64 waste facilities (during 2013–2020) caused or likely caused by lithium-ion batteries. Affected facilities included MRFs (Materials Recovery Facilities), solid waste trucks, landfills, transfer stations, public drop-off points, and electronics and battery recyclers. 78% of MRFs required emergency response for fires, with 43% facing monetary impacts. Lithium-ion battery fires are increasing due to the rise in portable, chargeable electronics and electric mobility such as scooters, bikes and vehicles. For full details, please see the EPA's Lithium-Ion Battery 2021 Report**.**

[4] *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."

THE FACTS

An overheating battery can go from from 212°F to 1,800°F in the blink of an eye. (Source: Clemson University.) When batteries ignite, they can throw off flames reaching temperatures of over 2000°F. (Source: National Institute of Standards and Technology.)

250+ FIRES IN 7 MONTHS

In the first seven months of 2025, there were more than **250 fire incidents at waste and recycling facilities across the U.S. and Canada**—more facility fires than any other period on record. (Source: Ryan Fogelman)

$22 MILLION PER FACILITY

Catastrophic losses caused by fires at waste processing facilities have **risen 41% in the last five years,** with the average catastrophic loss causing $22 million in damage. (Source: Recycle.com)

89+ DEATHS IN THE US

Since 2020, there have been at least **89 deaths** directly related to lithium-ion battery incidents in the United States, nearly a 50% increase from 2015-2019! (Source: UL Solutions)

Source: Safe Battery Disposal

EXTREME HEAT

When a battery overheats, it can jump from 212°F to 1,800°F in a second—and produce flames as hot as 2,000 °F! (Sources: Clemson University; National Institute of Standards and Technology.)

TOXIC GAS

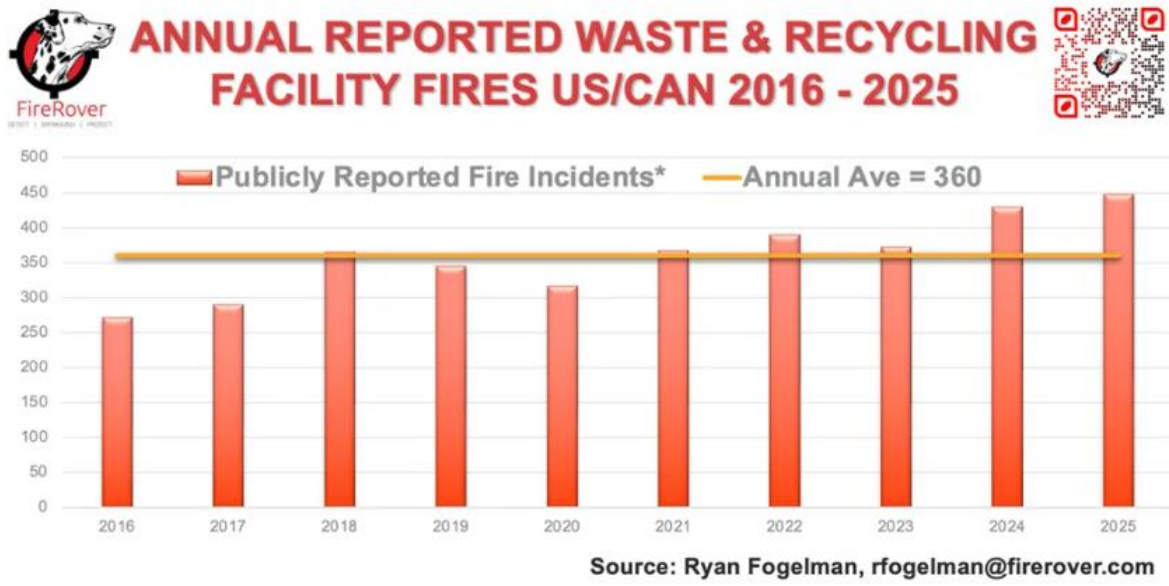
As lithium battery fires burn, they release toxic gasses like hydrogen fluoride and carbon monoxide. If inhaled, these fumes can lead to trouble breathing, eye and skin irritation, and in some cases, even death.

LONGER BURNING

Battery fires don't just burn hotter—they burn longer, too. These fires are extremely difficult for firefighters to put out, and they can quickly reignite without a moment's notice.

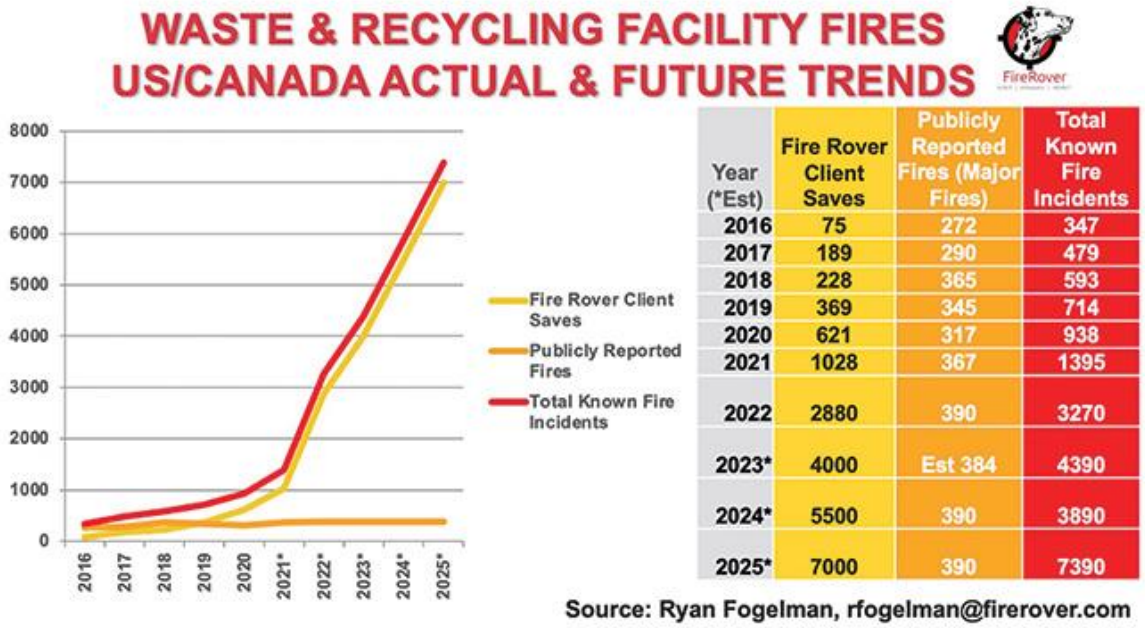
Source: Facts — Safe Battery Disposal

Slide from 1/27/26 EPA Virtual Roundtable Meeting



As of January 2026, "this year was the worst on record for publicly reported fires since I began consolidating and sharing the data in 2016. We finished the year with 448 publicly reported waste and recycling facility fires in the U.S. and Canada, which is more than last year's record of 430 fire incidents and nearly 25% above the annual average of 360 fire incidents."[5]

[5] January Fire Report, Date Accessed: February 15, 2026.



"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 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)

Lastly, videos of lithium-ion battery caused fires are provided below for reference:

- https://youtu.be/8nz5ijXcckI?si=HqCA9p0OxftZ4KXK
- https://youtu.be/Vudxuqjscho?si=UspX6BmIM9rmeo5A
- Video: How quickly a battery fire can start - Inside Waste

Summary

SB0655/HB0992 Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program is needed because:

- Most local governments are landfilling electronics due to recycling costs (or charging tipping fees to cover costs). Per the 2024 MDE Waste Characterization Study, ~41,394,00 pounds of electronics and computer products are landfilled in Maryland each year, with only about 13 years of remaining landfill capacity in the state, when factoring in population growth.
- Battery fires are increasing in the waste management sector. This program will divert battery devices to proper outlets, reducing incidents.
- It will also increase our domestic supply of rare-earth elements, critical minerals & precious metals, in high demand by the clean energy, electronics, auto and jewelry industries.

SB0655/HB0992 Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program 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, including local businesses such as certified recyclers in Maryland, due to new demand for staffing at collection sites and recycling facilities.
(5) Increase human and environmental health & safety, especially for waste workers & first responders by funding a statewide campaign to educate the public about recycling outlets for electronics and battery devices, as well as on the dangers of lithium-ion battery fires. The campaign will promote free public collection sites for material drop-off to keep these materials out of curbside waste and recycling collection trucks, since battery devices are causing fires on trucks & at waste and recycling facilities. It aligns with Recommendation #1 (page 5) & Finding #3 (page 22), in Final Recommendation Report of the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland (dated November 25, 2025).

Under this program,

- Manufacturers must provide educational materials with a new electronic device offered for sale in the state. This includes providing printed materials in or part of the packaging and/or on the receipt, with a website, phone number and/or QR code.
- As part of the Advisory Council process, manufacturers may be determined to fund public awareness campaigns to advertise and promote this on a regular basis, including ads on the internet, television, radio, billboard, public transit, solid waste collection truck wraps or decals, and home mailers.

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.

Additional Details

1) Modernizes the existing Statewide Electronics Recycling Program (SERP), enacted in 2005. Establishes a producer funded model to fully fund electronics recycling programs statewide. The bill will insulate programs from unpredictable commodity markets, recession and inflation, to fully fund both collection sites and recycling operations, while also funding MDE's administrative efforts and program oversight.

2) Establishes an Oregon modeled producer responsibility organization/coordinating body system in Maryland (with some elements of the Illinois and Connecticut electronics laws), to fund end-of-life electronics collectors and recyclers. Local/State government agencies are not required to participate in program.

3) Electronic device collectors (such as local government or retailers) are eligible to be reimbursed for the costs of end-of-life electronics on-site collection, storage, equipment, transportation, staffing, and public education efforts..

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

5) Participating collectors and recyclers are required to accept all end-of-life covered electronic device makes and models with no charge to the public (residents and businesses).

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

7) It will provide stronger environmental protections by authorizing MDE to establish:
a. Baseline of participating recycler requirements and certifications, as needed.
b. Baseline of participating collector requirements and certifications, as needed.

8) Authorizes MDE to establish reasonable caps on reimbursement rates for participating recyclers and collectors, as needed.

9) Expands devices covered for funding under the program, from items with a screen, to all of the following household electronics like computers, monitors, televisions, video display devices, desktop computers, portable computers, notebook computers, laptops, e-reading devices, tablets, routers, modems, CPUs, printers, scanners, fax machines, copiers, GPS, cameras, radios, remotes, headphones/earbuds, power strips, servers, DVD/VHS players/recorders, digital converter boxes, cable/satellite receivers, video game consoles, home audio equipment, speakers, electronic music players, computer peripherals, and PDAs.

10) 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. The Advisory Council shall make recommendations on:

- An expansion of the types of electronics covered under the program
- Increasing producer funded free public access to include additional drop-off sites, mandated retailer takeback, mail back programs, or at-home, curbside pickup service to further incentivize convenience and participation in the program

- Producer funded battery fire detection (e.g. thermal/heat spot imaging) and suppression systems and equipment to safeguard collection sites, waste facilities and vehicle operations
- Requirements on the reuse, refurbishment and recyclability of electronics, including the potential for eco-modulation and accessibility for repair redesign. This could also include post-consumer content and greenhouse gas reduction manufacturing goals when considering product design.

Local Government Reported Electronic Battery Powered Device and Battery Related Major Fires at Solid Waste Sites, Facilities and Curbside Collection Trucks		
	CY 2024	CY 2025
Anne Arundel County	There was a roll-off container fire at the Northern Recycling Center residential drop-off facility and an overnight fire in the public electronics collection area, that burned for hours.	In 2025 there was a total of two (2) fires attributed (or suspected) to be from the origin of electronics/batteries at Anne Arundel County Bureau of Waste Management facilities. Both incidents occurred at the residential drop off facilities. One was at the Central Recycling Center and one was at the Southern Recycling Center.
Baltimore City	Two fire incidents related to electronics in summer 2024. The electronics were brought in as part of the single stream recycling and MSW loads.	In 2025 there was a total of 3 fires attributed to electronics. One was at the Northwest Transfer Station where the material was included in a recycling load. The other two were at the Quarantine Road Landfill, where materials with batteries were disposed of and caught fire. One fire was pretty significant where it occurred overnight and reignited hours later.
Baltimore County	For CY 2024, there were 6 fires. 4 in the baler. 1 on the paper belt. 1 in a trailer.	4 major fires at County sites in 2025. 3 on tip floors and 1 in a trailer. Specifically, an entire trailer burned down to the ground at the Eastern Sanitary Landfill. Hard to say origin but assumed to be caused by electronic vapes since there were a large pack of vape pens found at the bottom of the trailer after the fire was extinguished.
Carroll County	One landfill working face fire near the surface. Two attempts needed to fully extinguish. Small transfer	Small transfer station floor flare-ups occur somewhat regularly, typically traced to small lithium

	station floor flare-ups occur regularly, typically traced to small lithium batteries (vapes and the like). One hauler reported a collection truck fire traced to vape batteries.	batteries (vapes and the like). At least one hauler reported a collection truck fire traced to a lithium battery.
Frederick County	This is true for 2025 as well, but there are an average of 2-4 small fires per month in the transfer station. Most are caught early and are small and can be extinguished with a handheld extinguisher. Causes of fires vary, but batteries are suspected in some cases. This is also true for 2025, but there have been a handful (approximately 2 per year) of fires in trucks on recycling collection routes. Again, causes vary but batteries are suspected in some cases	4/30/2025: A loaded trailer stored overnight on site caught fire. It took approximately 20,000 gallons of water to extinguish and the trailer was a total loss. Some evidence of electronics containing rechargeable batteries was found in the load. 12/24/25: A battery was brought in with a load of recycling and dumped on the transfer station floor. The loader bucket crushed the battery, causing a flash and it was pushed into a pile of recycling. The recycling soon caught fire and the operator caught it in time to segregate the burning material and push it to the door of the building before the entire pile caught on fire. The County has this incident on video tape and can share it, if requested.
Harford County	No information available for 2024.	The Harford Waste Disposal Center had three (3) fires in CY2025 that were beyond smoldering. Two (2) were on the active fill and one (1) was in a dumpster at the homeowner drop-off area. All were contained using on hand fire extinguishers and the water truck that is kept on standby.

Howard County	Experienced battery related fires at the electronics public drop off area, including two fires (one from an electric scooter), and six fires on curbside trash and recycling routes.	The County had 1 fire on the curbside routes and 1 fire at the landfill that required the fire department to be called. The County assumes they both started from a battery based on how difficult they were to put out.
Montgomery County	Although other fires were reported only the following were related to batteries or electronics. In 2024, the Shady Grove Transfer Station had 4 fire related incidents attributed to batteries (1 at the MRF and 3 on the Tipping Floor), and 1 fire related to an electric ballast)	Although other fires were reported only the following were related to batteries or electronics. In 2025, the Shady Grove Transfer Station had 9 fire related incidents attributed to batteries (3 in scrap metal collection area, 1 at the MRF and 5 on the Tipping Floor)

Source: Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority Member Jurisdiction Survey

SB0655 Testimony in Support_SWANA_2026.pdf
Uploaded by: Kristyn Oldendorf
Position: FAV

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SWANA.ORG

SWANA
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

February 20, 2026

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

Re: SB0655 Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) appreciates the opportunity to support SB0655. SWANA is a member-based association of nearly 10,000 professionals from across the waste and resource management industry. Committed to advancing from waste management to resource management, we are empowering our members to deliver essential services to communities today and anticipate their needs for tomorrow.

SWANA members include the professionals 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 presents unique challenges, as it requires separate and specialized collection, storage, and end of life management. These items cannot be mixed with household trash and recycling due to safety and environmental protections.

SB0655, 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.

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. This legislation will help mitigate this risk by allowing consumers to have options for proper recycling.

In addition, the public sector currently collects electronic waste from residents which has a heavy financial burden. Many of SWANA's public sector members often speak of the challenges of the increasing cost obligations to manage their waste and recycling

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operations. A county or city may not be able to provide convenient and accessible electronic waste recycling options to residents within their limited budgets. This legislation would shift financing of electronics collection off taxpayers and local government and allow for more robust collection services for residents.

Recycling of electronic waste 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.

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 US 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. The proposed legislation would create additional funding for electronics collections along with annual reporting requirements, enabling greater accountability and transparency into the end of life of these materials.

SWANA commends the Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment for considering SB0655, and supports passage of this bill. If you have any questions about these comments, or about SWANA, please contact Kristyn Oldendorf, SWANA Senior Director of Public Policy and Communications, 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)

SB0655– Electronic Device Producer Responsibility

Uploaded by: Laurie McGilvray

Position: FAV

Testimony on: **SB0655– Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program**
Committee: **Education, Energy, and the Environment**
Organization: **Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing**
Submitting: **Dave Arndt, Co-Chair**
Position: **Favorable**
Hearing Date: **February 24, 2026**

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Thank you for allowing our testimony today in support of SB0655, Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program. The Maryland Legislative Coalition Climate Justice Wing, a statewide coalition of 32 grassroots and professional organizations focused on climate justice, urges you to vote favorably on SB0655.

Almost everyone has one. That box, drawer or shopping bag in a closet filled with old cell phones, obsolete chargers, broken tablets and defunct MP3 players. It is your personal pile of electronic waste. As the useful life of electronic devices becomes shorter and shorter and the list of electronic gadgets we use becomes longer and longer, these piles are getting bigger. They are an increasingly important environmental issue.

There are numerous reasons why we should recycle these devices and keep electronic waste out of landfills:

1. Electronic devices are composed of toxic substances and heavy metals. Materials such as chromium, cadmium, mercury and lead can leach into the soil and contaminate the air and waterways.
2. Recycling this material will save landfill space.
3. Electronic products have valuable materials such as precious metals like gold, silver and platinum along with copper, aluminum, plastic and glass. Through the recycling process, these materials can be reclaimed. Most electronic devices are nearly 100 percent recyclable.
4. Reclaiming valuable materials through recycling means there will be decreased demand for new raw materials. This will help conserve important natural resources.
5. Using recycled material also will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing or processing new products known as “virgin material.” The more recycled material that is available, the lower the demand for virgin material.
6. Discarded electronic devices can be kept out of the landfill if they are refurbished, reused and donated to a worthy cause.

Despite all these benefits, the rates of recycling of electronic waste in Maryland is still very low, estimated to be about 15%. We need to find a better way. SB0655 puts more responsibility on the producers of these products to make sure their products are recycled. The bill will make it easier for consumers to drop off their devices at more convenient and familiar places. A benefit is that when consumers shop for replacement devices, they can conveniently dispose of their old

or nonfunctioning devices. Producers also will have to help educate consumers on the reasons for recycling electronic waste and education is one of the key drivers for increased recycling of all products.

When producers are responsible, it shifts the financial and operational burden of waste management from taxpayers and local governments to producers. It also has been documented that these programs promote sustainable design, increase recycling rates, and reduce waste. A win-win-win.

Accordingly, we urge this committee to issue a FAVORABLE report for SB0655.

350MoCo
Adat Shalom Climate Action
Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church Environmental Justice Ministry
Chesapeake Earth Holders
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Climate Communications Coalition
Climate Parents of Prince George's
Climate Reality Greater Maryland
ClimateXChange
Coming Clean Network, Union of Concerned Scientists
DoTheMostGood Montgomery County
Echotopia
Elders Climate Action Maryland
Fix Maryland Rail
Glen Echo Heights Mobilization
Greenbelt Climate Action Network
HoCoClimateAction
Howard County Indivisible
Maryland Legislative Coalition
Maryland Energy Advocates
Maryland Third Act
Mizrahi Family Charitable Fund
Mobilize Frederick
Montgomery County Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Montgomery Countryside Alliance
Mountain Maryland Movement
Nuclear Information & Resource Service
Progressive Maryland
Safe & Healthy Playing Fields
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee
The Climate Mobilization MoCo Chapter
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of Maryland

SB0655-EEE-FAV.pdf
Uploaded by: Nina Themelis
Position: FAV

BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

Office of Government Relations88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SB 0655

February 24, 2026

TO: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 0655: Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program – Established

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill **(**SB) 655.

SB 655 will update the current law and provide a sustainable funding source to Baltimore City and other collectors. Since 2012, Baltimore City has recycled over 8,000,000 pounds of electronics received at our public collection sites, costing over $1,000,000 to do so.

As the City expands its zero waste programs, most recently adopting textile, mattress and expanded electronics recycling programs, it comes at a contractual cost when hiring companies to collect and recycle this material. It also comes at a logistical cost to onsite operations staff, increasing their responsibilities by requiring more material specific segregation oversight, also impacting traffic flow and contractor coordination.

This bill will fund our electronics recycling contracts and dedicated staff for receiving and packaging electronics in busy public drop-off areas, improving workplace safety, especially with heavy and bulky items. It will fund the City to hire trained staff to ensure proper storage and safe segregation of battery-embedded products, and special handling for damaged, defective, or recalled items that tend to ignite. Electronics battery fire incidents have already occurred at the City's facilities.

With an increasing amount of electronics entering the market, it is paramount that there is a coherent and sustainable financial plan to handle the material and battery fires that come from them. SB 655 provides that framework.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 655.

Maryland Recycling Network Testimony Favorable - S

Uploaded by: Peter Houstle

Position: FAV

February 24, 2026

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

Re: SB0655 - Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program

Favorable

As current President of Maryland Recycling Network (MRN), I am writing in support of SB0655. I bring my experience managing electronics recycling contracts over the last 12 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 approximately 20 years left of landfill capacity, with only about 13 years when factoring in population growth, per MDE. 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 in Maryland 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.

The 2024 MDE Statewide Waste Study found over 41,00,000 pounds of electronics are landfilled in Maryland each year.

All of 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 elements, critical 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.

We've already seen fires at collection sites, MRFs and on solid waste trucks in Maryland. These battery fires burn longer, hotter and are more difficult to extinguish. They escalate much faster, are prone to reignition and can burn for days. We need to protect our essential workers, first responders, and recycling infrastructure. This bill will do that. The updated program will incorporate battery operated devices, as recommended by the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland.

The program will address the severe human health and safety issues from toxic chemical battery flammable gas, smoke, fire and explosion incidents (which can be fatal, even from inhalation). Battery fire incidents have been exponentially increasing in Maryland and across the country and world. Battery fire incidents severely impact and endanger site staff, capital infrastructure like MRFs, transfer stations, waste facilities and landfills, 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.

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Maryland now has modern EPR programs for packaging, paper and paint recycling. This bill complements those laws, to ensure recycling and public education is funded.

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.

SB0655 Electronic Device Favorable Kranz 2-24-26.
Uploaded by: Rhonda Kranz
Position: FAV

Testimony on: SB0655– Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program
Committee: Education, Energy and the Environment
Submitting: Rhonda Kranz
Position: Favorable
Hearing Date: February 124, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

Thank you for accepting my written testimony in support of SB0655, Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program.

Electronic waste is composed of dangerous pollutants and toxins and heavy metals. These end up in our soil and in our waterways. I live near Sligo Creek, a tributary of the Anacostia River that flow through a heavily paved urban area with a lot of development. Heavy metals and other pollutants are found in the creek. It is also in a neighborhood park where children play and wade in the water.

Over the decades I have seen, and been part of the growth in electronic purchases, and waste. What do we do with our old phones and computers? It is a question I hear and am asked frequently. There are a few places to drop off some specific types of devices, but it is inadequate or hard to find, so they go in to the trash and eventually in to our already waning land fill space. There is also the loss of precious metals like gold, copper, and aluminum. These are not only costly but their mining and production have large environment costs.

Electronic devices can often be refurbished and reused. They can be donated to schools or made available to people that cannot afford to buy them. My phone and computer are both refurbished and are giving me years of good use. And even those devices that cannot be reused are valuable; most electronic devices are nearly 100 percent recyclable. Despite the desire of many people to recycle their electronic devices the rates are extremely low Maryland, about 15%.

SB0655 moves us forward by putting more responsibility on the producer to make sure their products are recycled. It will encourage recycling by making it easy to drop off devices in numerous and easily accessible places. It will also have an educational component as producers will have incentives to help educate consumers on reasons for recycling. Finally, and also important are the cost savings to taxpayers and local governments to address waste management of these devices.

Programs like this have successfully worked elsewhere and would be a cost effective, environmentally safe, and much welcome program for Maryland.

For these reasons, I urge a FAVORABLE report for SB0655.

SB 0655.pdf
Uploaded by: Richard Keller
Position: FAV

KATHERINE KLAUSMEIER
County Executive

LAUREN BUCKLER, P.E., *Director*
Department of Public Works and Transportation

February 19, 2026

TO: Maryland Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
RE: SB 0655 Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program – Established
Favorable

I am Richard Keller, Recycling and Waste Prevention Manager, Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation, Bureau of Solid Waste Management.

The Bureau manages solid waste and recyclables in Baltimore County, including collection, processing, marketing (for recyclables), and disposal (for solid waste). Our goal is to extend the life of the County's only active landfill, the Eastern Sanitary Landfill. Recycling is a key component in reducing the volume of material going to the landfill, including recycling a wide variety of electronics.

Since 2012, Baltimore County has recycled over 15.3 million pounds of electronics received at our public collection sites, costing over $1,000,000 to do so.

The proposed legislation (SB 655) would provide funding for electronics recycling and ease the financial burden on the County, create jobs, and increase our supply of raw materials. The bill will also divert tax revenues for other public sector services and allow us to expand the program to accept more materials.

It will also fund a set of on-site 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.

Baltimore County supports this legislation to help us expand our recycling and worker safety efforts.

We urge a favorable report on SB 655.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard Keller

Richard Keller
Recycling and Waste Prevention Manager
Department of Public Works and Transportation
Bureau of Solid Waste Management - Recycling
111 W. Chesapeake Ave; Rm 211
Towson, MD 21204-4615
Phone: 410-887-2791; Fax: 410-887-2931; MS 1209
Cell: 410-812-3155

SB655-MML-Testimony.pdf
Uploaded by: Tyler Brice
Position: FAV

TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE:	Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment	**DATE:**	February 24, 2026
POSITION:	Favorable	**BILL:**	SB 655

On behalf of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the 157 incorporated municipalities we represent, I submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 655, the Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program. I wish to share both the promise of this legislation and the lived realities of Maryland's municipalities in navigating the challenges and opportunities of responsible electronic device waste management.

For years, our cities and towns have stood at the intersection of technological advancement and environmental stewardship. As households and institutions have adopted and subsequently discarded a wide array of electronic devices, from computers and televisions to routers, printers, and tablets, municipal governments have repeatedly found themselves as the final guardians of environmental best practices. Unfortunately, the burden of managing the ever-growing tide of electronic waste, or "e-waste," has often fallen most heavily on our local governments, who must do so with finite resources, inconsistent funding, and a patchwork regulatory framework.

The experience has not been without its trials. Under the prior system, municipalities faced an often inconsistent and uneven landscape: takeback programs varied by manufacturer, available public collection sites waxed and waned, and the scope of covered devices was constantly evolving. Residents, seeking to do the right thing, frequently encountered confusion regarding where, how, and if they could responsibly recycle their electronics. Municipalities, in turn, bore not only the administrative and operational stress of filling gaps left by an incomplete statewide program, but also the very real environmental risks, illegal dumping, improper disposal, and cascading problems at our landfills and recycling facilities.

At the same time, our localities have been creative and resilient. Many have innovated new community collection events, partnered with nonprofits, and engaged in costly public information campaigns, all in service of environmental best practices. Municipal officials have worked tirelessly to educate the public, remediate sites contaminated by dumped electronics, and maintain a social contract of responsible stewardship in the absence of a robust statewide infrastructure. Yet, the back and forth between municipal best intentions and structural limitations has taken its toll.

SB655 marks a pivotal turning point. By instituting a producer responsibility framework, this legislation rightfully shifts the principal burden of collection, transportation, and recycling of electronics from municipalities and taxpayers to the companies whose devices are sold in our state. Through the creation of Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) and a mandatory, statewide program, Maryland can ensure all manufacturers either participate in or fund effective e-waste management. No longer will our municipalities have to negotiate separately with manufacturers or scramble to inform residents of eligibility or exceptions; program services will be equitable and consistent for every city and town across the state.

The bill's requirements, for a comprehensive statewide collection network, for multilingual and ADA-compliant consumer education, for annual plan submissions and measurable goals, and for close consultation with both the Department of the Environment and local governments, respond to many of the tribulations municipalities have faced. The explicit inclusion of municipalities in the advisory council, the mandate for fair financial compensation for local collection sites, and the focus on public awareness, especially in underserved and rural communities, help rectify long-standing obstacles. Further, the program's built-in accountability, regular reporting, opportunities for continuous improvement, and oversight for both manufacturers and PROs, ensures that our communities are not left to bear the cost when goals are missed.

We have experienced, first-hand, the consequences of underfunded and piecemeal takeback systems: hazardous materials in the waste stream, public confusion, cost-shifting, and environmental harm. But we have also witnessed the power of coordinated action when given the right tools. As proposed, SB655 puts Maryland at the forefront of sensible, sustainable electronics management. It reduces unnecessary burdens on municipalities, addresses social equity, increases convenience for residents, and ensures producers are accountable for the complete lifecycle of their products.

The Maryland Municipal League believes SB655 is not simply a regulatory reform, but an investment in healthier communities, smarter government, and environmental responsibility. We urge the legislature to support this measure, ending the frustrating back-and-forth and launching a new era of partnership between state, local governments, producers, and the people we all serve. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

Tyler Brice: Manager, Advocacy and Public Policy, tylerb@mdmunicipal.org

Maryland Senate Education-Energy and Enviorment Co

Uploaded by: Yosef Green

Position: FAV

B2B Mobile Auction
Quality Quantity Quickly

February 24, 2026

To: Maryland Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee

SB 0655 Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program – Established

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 SB 0655 Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program – Established 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 to 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.

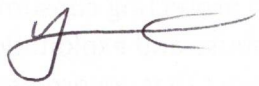
In one such instance CRT monitors were being buried in the ground or abandoned in shipping containers. In another case, data-sensitive products made their way out of the country into the hands of criminals who attempted blackmail and identity theft on the original owners. In a third instance, hospital 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 2026. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Yosef Green
LS Enterprise Group

CTA_Testimony_SB655_2_24_26.pdf
Uploaded by: Katie Reilly
Position: FWA

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CTA.tech

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Testimony on: SB 655 Electronic Devices Producer Responsibility Program
Position: Favorable with Amendments
Hearing Date: February 24, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Consumer Technology Association (CTA), we respectfully urge a favorable report with amendments for SB655, establishing a producer responsibility program for electronic devices.

CTA is the trade association representing the U.S. consumer technology industry, including manufacturers of the electronic devices in scope of the requirements in SB655. Our members are the world's leading innovators – from startups to global brands to retailers – helping support more than 18 million American consumer technology jobs. As an industry, we have supported the proper collection and recycling of electronics at end of life via voluntary, manufacturer led programs in combination with state mandated programs ensuring electronics are sent to responsible, certified electronics recycling facilities across the U.S.

For the past two decades, CTA's member companies established and operated extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs in 24 states plus the District of Columbia. In fact, Maryland has an existing EPR law for electronics which passed in 2005.[1] Maryland's current law is a unique structure that does not mirror any other state.

It is important to understand that electronics do not follow a standard EPR model like paint or mattresses. There is no single Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) that operates for electronics here in the U.S. Since the first law passed 20 years ago, the states that have adopted EPR for electronics have not followed one standard model. Instead, the industry has explored numerous program structures and learned along the way what works best and what has presented challenges. Several states have updated existing laws in recent years and programs require engagement across all stakeholders to respond to the needs of individual state structures.

At the core, an EPR structure for electronics must be market driven. Unlike EPR for other products, there are unique concerns with electronics that drive the need for a more unique approach including concerns on protecting data in the recycling system and international restrictions around the movement of certain commodity types generated from the electronics

[1] More information on Maryland's eCycling program can be found at https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/land/WasteManagement/Pages/eCycling.aspx.

recycling process. In other words, recycling an electronic is not the same as recycling a cardboard box or aluminum can.

What Industry Supports
We appreciate the intent of SB655 to update Maryland's existing electronics EPR program. There are several areas of commonality from a high-level perspective which CTA supports including:

- Increasing free and convenient recycling opportunities for consumers once electronic devices reach their end of life;
- Fair financial compensation for local governments; and
- Manufacturer vetted and approved electronics recyclers.

However, like any legislation, the details are extremely important, and there are several areas where the language in SB655 is misaligned with industry's position on electronics EPR. Therefore, CTA is seeking amendments to SB655.

Challenges with SB655
There are several areas of concern for CTA in the current language which includes:

- **Clearinghouse Structure vs. Traditional PRO:** As tested in states like Illinois, a manufacturer clearinghouse should serve in lieu of a single (or traditional) PRO and coordinate among manufacturer plans (independent or group plans) to ensure convenient coverage and consumer education in the state and submit information (plans, reports) to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).
    - While the bill allows for collaboration via a clearinghouse, that only occurs after plans are submitted to MDE. Coordination must occur ahead of plan submission as we have learned the challenges of coordinating after plan submission in Oregon.
    - Electronics EPR programs must be market driven and therefore a single (or traditional) PRO structure does not work for electronics. Additionally, manufacturers must retain control of working with their preferred electronics recycling partners who are vetted and audited against both industry and individual manufacturer standards. This ensures devices and the commodity outputs are being properly managed along with the personal data contained on many electronic devices.
    - MDE must be responsible for manufacturer registration, market share determination, plan and annual report approvals, and enforcement over the program. However, the Clearinghouse will help streamline the submission of information into MDE providing needed program efficiencies.
- **Consumer Focus:** The focus must be on recycling electronics at end of life from consumers (aka households) within Maryland. Businesses and public sector entities can include end of life management as part of their service contract when purchasing electronic devices and should not be covered by an EPR program. The requirement to collect electronics from businesses and public sector entities should be removed.
- **Recycling Focus:** While reuse of products should be encouraged, reuse should not be part of an EPR system. EPR is meant as a financing mechanism for products at their

end of life; not for products entering their second life or beyond. The language in SB655 needs clarified to ensure the focus is on recycling products at end of life only.

- **Avoid Added Bureaucracy:** The proposal calls for an Advisory Board which creates unnecessary bureaucratic structure and oversight that could instead be managed directly by MDE via plan approval. Many program requirements that could be easily incorporated into the legislation are also left to the regulatory development process, adding more burden for MDE. Streamlining a program that can get off its feet quickly should be the priority.
- **New Products for EPR:** CTA recognizes that new devices may need to enter the electronics EPR system but does not support the ability of MDE to add products via regulation. Rather, this is the appropriate use of an advisory council that could evaluate new products against compatibility with the electronics collection and recycling infrastructure along with other factors and make recommendations to the legislature to add new products to the electronics EPR system.

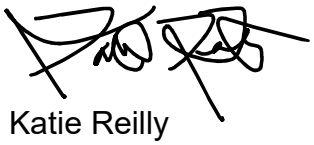
There are additional concerns and CTA welcomes the opportunity to discuss the details of the proposed legislation with the Committee.

Next Steps for SB655

CTA looks forward to continued engagement with the Maryland Legislature and Senator Augustine on amendments to address the above concerns. We appreciate the collaboration to date and look forward to future discussions.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at kreilly@cta.tech.

Sincerely,



Katie Reilly
VP, Environmental Affairs and Industry Sustainability
Consumer Technology Association

SB 655
Uploaded by: Vincent Pacheco
Position: FWA

The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

Senate Bill 655
Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program – Established

Position: Support with Amendments
Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Date: February 24, 2026
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 655 with amendments**.**

Bill Summary

SB 655 would establish a separate covered electronic device producer responsibility program. This includes approving stewardship organization(s) plans and annual reports, associated review fees, and reimbursement of certain activities. Under the bill, an electronic device manufacturer has to meet certain requirements prior to distributing covered electronics into the state. SB 655 establishes an Advisory Council and requires MDE to adopt regulations to implement, review, and approve plans to manage the program. The bill also alters or eliminates certain aspects of the current covered electronics devices law.

Position Rationale

MDE supports initiatives to divert electronic waste from final disposal, particularly through well-funded programs that align with the State's sustainable materials management goals. The Department supports the intent of this legislation and offers several recommendations to ensure the bill is practical and effectively implementable.

MDE recommends maintaining the existing framework of "free" takeback programs to provide consumers with robust diversion options and supports removing the reduced $500 fee to better offset agency startup costs. The Department suggests simplifying the definitions of "covered electronic device," "computer," and "white goods" to accommodate future technological shifts without requiring statutory changes, specifically proposing a broad dictionary-based definition for "computer." To ensure clarity and prevent regressive policy shifts, the bill should explicitly list exclusions rather than inclusions, particularly as cellphones are already covered under Maryland's current electronics recycling law.

MDE suggests expanding the bill's scope from "sell or offer for sale" to "distributed or for sale or offer to sell" for any products not part of an approved plan within the established timeframes. To ensure measurable success, the Department recommends including specific, date-certain targets for recycling, capture, reuse, and refurbishment that align with existing Maryland producer responsibility statutes. To provide necessary administrative flexibility, the phrase "in regulation" should be removed in several parts of the statute allowing MDE to utilize guidance where appropriate. Removing this language does not

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prohibit the department from adding requirements in regulation if the authorizing statute already exists.

Environmental sound management practices should be defined to include modulation factors that reward more recyclable or repairable devices, consistent with other state programs. Additionally, SB 655 must be amended to include a specific deadline for plan submissions to ensure the Department can meet its subsequent regulatory obligations.

The bill should also be amended to clearly outline requirements for producer plans, including fund distribution, audit reimbursements, convenience standards, and notifications for non-compliant devices. MDE recommends extending record-keeping requirements to align with existing state laws to prevent data loss and assigning producer registration duties to the responsibility organization, as is standard in Maryland's paint and packaging & paper products laws. Furthermore, weight reporting for refurbished or resold devices must be required to maintain accurate county data under the Maryland Recycling Act. Finally, MDE suggests adding a Department representative as a non-voting member of the advisory council to facilitate ongoing coordination.

MDE has been working with advocates and the sponsor on bill language, and plans to submit amendment requests for SB 655.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for SB 655.

MDCC_SB 655_Unfavorable.pdf
Uploaded by: Grason Wiggins
Position: UNF

MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

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.**