



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations 88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 0992

February 27, 2026

TO: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 0992: Electronic Device Producer Responsibility Program – Established

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 992.

HB 992 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. HB 992 provides that framework.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 992.