



## Senate Bill 591

*Environment - Covered Electronic Device Recycling Program - Establishment  
(Electronics Recycling Health and Safety Modernization Act)*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment  
Committee

Date: February 18, 2025

From: Dominic J. Butchko

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 591. This bill establishes a framework for a state fee on the purchase of certain electronics in order to more adequately fund primarily county-operated infrastructure for sustainable electronics recycling.

As market trends have made clear, Maryland residents will be purchasing an increasing number of electronics. Already, most household devices are eventually disposed of or recycled via county-operated infrastructure. SB 591 seeks to strengthen this infrastructure, recognizing the specific potential for landfill and groundwater contaminants by e-devices that include batteries, digital visual displays, and other complex components. It establishes a fee on the purchase of electronics and uses those funds to provide more sufficient resources to collection and recycling operations. Importantly, counties that function as both collectors and recyclers will be eligible to receive reimbursement for both services, extending the capacity of local programs and providing more flexibility to local tax dollars. Should a county already be satisfied with its existing electronics collection and recycling programming, the legislation enables a county to retain that offering and not participate in the newly established scheme.

SB 591 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 591 a **FAVORABLE** report.