



## 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.