



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 468

DATE: February 27, 2024

SPONSOR: Delegate Love

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Favorable (Department of Environmental Protection)

Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland

Advancements in battery technology have brought remarkable benefits to society, but also present numerous challenges for first responders and waste handlers. Lithium-ion batteries are already found in many devices. Higher capacity batteries are now being developed with the capacity to store large amounts of electricity to enhance resilience of the electric grid and support the use of intermittent clean energy sources such as solar and wind. These batteries will play an important role in enabling Maryland's clean energy transition.

However, fires associated with these batteries can be particularly challenging for first responders. It is important that effective regulations and programs be in place to ensure public safety as the use of these batteries continues to grow.

This bill would establish the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland to study and make recommendations regarding best practices and guidelines to prevent, detect, and suppress lithium-ion battery fires in consumer, transportation, and utility applications, and at recycling facilities. We support these recommendations and suggest that they also be developed with consideration of solid waste disposal facilities and collection vehicles. The Commission would also make recommendations related to the reuse and recycling of these batteries, extended producer responsibility, and public education.

We respectfully request that the Economic Matters Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 468.