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SPEAKER PRO TEM
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The Maryland House of Delegates
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Delegate Dana Stein Testimony in Support of HB 830
Environment - Covered Electronic Devices Recycling Program -
Establishment

We spend more than \$160 billion on consumer electronic products every year. These are great products that we can't live without, but their core materials must be managed safely. Some materials are toxic, most are reusable.

Unfortunately, too many electronic products end up in landfills or worse. In 2005, we set up a program that charged manufacturers fees that were to fund electronic recycling efforts. These fees have proven to be grossly inadequate. Only in four years was the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) able to provide grants of minimal amounts, \$15,000 in some cases, to localities to underwrite recycling of electronics.

As a result, most counties aren't able to recycle all electronics that arrive at their landfills, although some do with fees charged at public drop-off centers. This bill would change that. It would set up a program for the collection, recycling, refurbishment, and reuse of electronic devices. Fees would be assessed at point of sale and would cover the cost of collecting and recycling TV's, laptops, monitors, cellphones, and other products. MDE would administer the program or could delegate it to a third party. Retailers could keep 3% of the proceeds.

The bill also sets up an advisory council to make recommendations on all aspects of the program.

Amendments clarify that the consumer fee on products would be as determined by MDE to cover costs associated with the program. Manufacturers would pay the previously approved rates of \$5,000 per year for mid-size producers and \$10,000 per year for large producers to support MDE's administrative costs.