



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 91

DATE: January 23, 2024

SPONSOR: Delegate Foley

ASSIGNED TO: Health and Government Operations

CONTACT PERSON: Steven Shofar (steven.shofar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)

Fossil Fuel-Powered Lawn and Garden Care Equipment – State Purchase, Use, and Contracts – Prohibition

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection supports House Bill 91, Fossil Fuel-Powered Lawn and Garden Care Equipment - State Purchase, Use, and Contracts - Prohibition. House Bill 91 is consistent with Montgomery County's goals to protect worker health, protect air quality, reduce harmful noise, and reduce our carbon footprint. Two stroke engines emit low frequency noise that is harmful to hearing and disruptive, and the health effects to workers and our environment from unburned fuel is well documented. Montgomery County has banned the use of gas leaf blowers and leaf vacuums beginning on July 1, 2025, and the sale will be banned on July 1, 2024. Washington, D.C. has also had a ban on the sale and use of gas leaf blowers since January of 2022.

The Department recommends that the State consider phasing out the use of two-stroke engine equipment sooner than 2030, only allowing the use of remaining four-stroke equipment through 2030, along with expanding the list of banned equipment to include other two-stroke landscape equipment including chainsaws, small snow blowers, pressure washers, and small generators.

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection respectfully requests that the Health and Government Operations Committee consider the Department's suggestions for expanding the bill's scope and move favorably on House Bill 91.