

Battery Stewardship Bill

Relating to providing for responsible environmental management of batteries (HBxxxx)

Washington needs a convenient, safe, statewide battery disposal program

- **People are often confused about how to dispose of batteries** resulting in unsafe disposal in household recycling or trash bins.
- **Battery collection sites are too limited and disposal guidances vary across the state.**
- **Workers at recycling and solid waste facilities are at risk** as a result due to fires started by improperly disposed batteries.
- **Batteries contain materials that are toxic (thus should be handled properly) and commodities such as metal that can be recycled.** Some batteries contain toxic materials, such as mercury, lead, and cadmium that can leak and pose environmental risks when not properly stored or disposed.
- **Local governments are facing increasing costs** of managing batteries. Batteries are difficult and expensive to manage and require special handling to prepare for transportation.



Battery fire at recycling facility in Minnesota that resulted in the loss of the entire building in 2018

What this bill does: Establishes a Battery Stewardship Program providing convenient, effective disposal of batteries through collection sites

- **Increase safety and convenience** for residents and businesses who need to dispose of batteries. Includes single use batteries up to 25 pounds, such as alkaline or silver oxide button cell batteries, and rechargeable batteries up to 25 pounds, such as lithium ion and nickel metal hydride batteries.
- **Reduce improper disposal of batteries** in our solid waste and recycling systems to prevent hazardous and costly **fires** which impact workers and infrastructure.
- Provide **full funding** for municipal programs that collect and manage batteries.



All different sorts of batteries. Taped with blue tape to ensure that they will not spark fires.

- Get the highest concern batteries (lithium, especially) by **collecting all battery types**, as does Vermont. It is difficult for customers to differentiate between types and chemistries of batteries, so it is important for battery stewardship programs to collect all battery types and chemistries.
- **Shifts costs** associated with managing end-of-life of batteries from ratepayers to the manufacturers of batteries as part of their business costs. Battery producers already provide take-back programs in some states and in many other countries.
- **Restricts batteries in landfill or recycling bins** but does not hold liable solid waste collectors and facilities if people place batteries in the wrong containers.