SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Senator Allen, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular

Bill No:	SB 1215		
Author:	Newman		
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Urgency:	No	**Fiscal:**	No
Consultant:	Gabrielle Meindl		

SUBJECT: Battery and Battery-Embedded Product Recycling and Fire Risk Reduction Act of 2022

DIGEST: Creates the Responsible Battery Recycling Act (Act) of 2022, which requires producers of covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products, as defined, to establish a stewardship program for the collection and recycling of covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

1) Establishes the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act, which requires every retailer to have a system in place, on or before July 1, 2006, for the acceptance and collection of used rechargeable batteries for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal (Public Resources Code (PRC) §§42451-42456).

2) Establishes the Electronic Waste Recycling Act to create a program for consumers to return, recycle, and ensure the safe and environmentally-sound disposal of "covered devices" (i.e., video display devices) that are hazardous wastes when discarded (PRC §§42460 et seq.).

3) Establishes the Cell Phone Recycling Act, which requires all retailers of cellular phones to have a system in place for the collection, reuse, and recycling of cell phones and requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to provide information on cell phone recycling (PRC §§42490-42499).

4) Establishes the Hazardous Waste Control Law (HWCL) and requires DTSC to oversee the management of hazardous waste (Heath & Safety Code (HSC) §§25100 et seq.).

5) Establishes the Integrated Waste Management Act and requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery(CalRecycle) to oversee the management

of solid waste (PRC §§40050 et seq.).

This bill:

1) Defines "covered battery" as a device consisting of one or more electrically connected electrochemical cells designed to receive, store, and deliver electric energy. (These are commonly thought of as household batteries such as single use alkaline and lithium batteries and rechargeable lithium metal, nickel cadmium, and nickel metal hydride batteries of various sizes (AAA, AA, C, D, 9-Volt, and small sealed lead-acid batteries)

2) Provides that "covered battery" does not include any of the following:
   a) A primary battery weighing over two kilograms that is a non-rechargeable battery, including but not limited to alkaline, carbon-zinc, and lithium metal batteries;
   b) A rechargeable battery weighing over five kilograms and having a watt-hour rating of more than 300 watt-hours;
   c) A lead acid battery;
   d) A battery contained in a motor vehicle (this exclusion does not apply to a battery in a motorized scooter, motorized skateboard, a motorized hoverboard, or a device intended to propel or move upon a highway only one individual person); and,
   e) A fuel cell electrical generating facility.

3) Defines "covered battery-embedded product" as a product containing a battery or battery pack that is not designed to be removed from the product by the consumer.

4) Provides that "covered battery-embedded product" does not include any of the following:
   a) A medical device;
   b) A covered electronic device; and,
   c) An energy storage system.

5) Defines "distributor" as a company that has a contractual relationship with one or more producers to market and sell covered batteries or covered battery-embedded products.

6) Defines "producer" as the person who manufactures the covered battery or covered battery-embedded product and who sells, offers for sale, or distributes the covered battery or covered battery-embedded product in or into the state.

7) Defines "rechargeable battery" as a battery that contains one or more voltaic or galvanic cells, electrically connected to produce electric energy, and that is designed to be recharged.

8) Provides that "rechargeable battery" does not include a battery that contains electrolytes as a free liquid or a battery that employs lead-acid technology, unless that battery is sealed and contains no free liquid electrolytes.

9) Defines "retailer" as a person who sells covered batteries or covered battery-embedded products in or into the state to a person through any means, including, but not limited to, sales outlets, catalogs, the telephone, the internet, or any electronic means.

10) Defines "stewardship organization" as an organization exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code that is established by a group of producers in accordance with this bill to develop and implement a stewardship program.

11) Defines "stewardship plan" or "plan" as a plan developed by a stewardship organization or producer for the collection, transportation, and recycling, and the safe and proper management, of covered batteries or covered battery-embedded products.

12) Defines "stewardship program" as a program established by a producer or stewardship organization for the free and convenient collection, transportation, and recycling, and the safe and proper management, of covered batteries, covered battery-embedded products, or covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products pursuant to a plan approved by CalRecycle.

13) Requires, on or before January 1, 2025, CalRecycle, in consultation with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), to adopt regulations to implement the Act.

14) Requires a producer, no later than 90 days after the effective date of the Act, to provide to CalRecycle a list of covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products that the producer sells or offers for sale in the state.

15) Authorizes producers to establish one or more stewardship organizations to develop and implement the covered battery and covered battery-embedded product recycling program established by this Act.

16) Requires, within six months of the effective date of the regulations adopted by CalRecycle, a producer or stewardship organization to develop and submit to CalRecycle a stewardship plan for the collection, transportation, recycling, and safe and proper management, of covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products in the state.

17) Requires a stewardship plan for covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products to include multiple standards and elements including:
   a) The names of producers, distributors, importers, manufacturers, brands and covered batteries covered under the stewardship plan;
   b) A free and convenient collection system for covered batteries in each county of the state that meets specified requirements;
   c) Collection sites with the necessary equipment, training, signage, safety guidance, and educational materials;
   d) A funding mechanism to provide sufficient funding for the producer or stewardship organization to implement the plan;
   e) A description of the process by which covered batteries will be processed and recycled following collection at collection sites;
   f) Developing strategies, in consultant with the California Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Task Force and other relevant stakeholders, for collecting covered batteries for recycling in areas and communities that face unique challenges associated with proper waste management, such as poverty, language barriers, and illegal disposal;
   g) A comprehensive statewide education and outreach program designed to promote participation in the collection and recycling program offered by the stewardship organization; and,
   h) A description of goals and metrics used to determine the success of the statewide education and outreach program.

18) Requires, at least 90 days before submitting a plan to CalRecycle, a producer or stewardship organization to submit its entire proposed plan to DTSC for its review.

19) Requires DTSC to review the plan for compliance with state and federal laws and regulations related to its authority, make a determination of compliance or noncompliance, and provide that determination to the producer or stewardship organization within 90 days of receipt of the plan.

20) Requires CalRecycle to review the stewardship plan for compliance with the Act and to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve the plan within 90 days of receipt of the plan.

21) Requires, on or before December 31, 2025, a producer or a stewardship organization to have a complete plan approved by CalRecycle in order to be in compliance with the Act.

22) Requires, within 270 days of receiving approval of a plan from CalRecycle, a producer or stewardship organization to fully implement its stewardship program.

23) Requires a producer or stewardship organization to prepare and submit to CalRecycle, with the submission of a proposed plan, a proposed stewardship program budget for the next five calendar years.

24) Requires CalRecycle, within 90 days of receipt of a stewardship program budget, to approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve a stewardship program budget.

25) Requires a producer or stewardship organization to annually submit to CalRecycle, and make publicly available on its internet website, an annual report containing specified information on the stewardship program.

26) Requires CalRecycle, on or before July 1, 2027, and on or before July 1 each year thereafter, to post on its internet website a list of producers that are in compliance with the Act.

27) Authorizes CalRecycle to impose an administrative civil penalty on a producer, stewardship organization, manufacturer, distributor, retailer, importer, recycler, or collection site that is in violation of the Act.

28) Repeals, as of January 1, 2027, the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act of 2006 and the Cell Phone Recycling Act of 2004.

Background

1) *Universal Wastes and its management.* Hazardous waste is a waste with properties that make it potentially dangerous or harmful to human health or the environment. To be considered a hazardous waste, it must appear on one of the four RCRA hazardous waste lists or exhibit one of the four characteristics of a hazardous waste – ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity. Under current law, it is illegal to dispose of hazardous waste in the garbage, down storm drains, or onto the ground.

Universal wastes, which are regulated by DTSC, are hazardous wastes that are widely produced by households and many different types of businesses. It comes primarily from consumer products containing mercury, lead, cadmium and other substances that are hazardous to human health and the environment.

2) *Battery regulation*. Most batteries, regardless of size, are considered universal waste or hazardous waste when they are discarded and cannot be disposed of in the trash or household recycling collection bins (blue bins). Many types of batteries, regardless of size, exhibit hazardous characteristics and are considered hazardous when they are discarded. These include single use alkaline and lithium batteries and rechargeable lithium metal, nickel cadmium, and nickel metal hydride batteries of various sizes (e.g., AAA, AA, C, D, button cell, 9-Volt, and small sealed lead-acid batteries).

   These batteries, sold individually, would be "covered batteries" under SB 1215. However, many batteries are sold within products, such as lithium-ion batteries, which are widely used in portable electronics like laptops, smart phones, digital cameras, game consoles, and cordless power tools. Some of these products would be considered "covered battery-embedded products" under the bill if the battery is not designed to be removed from the product by the consumer.

   If batteries end up in the trash or a recycling bin, owners/operators of solid waste transfer stations, municipal landfills, and recycling centers who discover batteries in the waste or recyclable materials are required to remove and manage the batteries separately. The facility that removes the batteries from the municipal solid waste stream or recyclable materials legally becomes the generator of the hazardous waste batteries and must comply with the state's hazardous waste management regulations. Facilities that do not properly manage hazardous waste may be subject to regulatory enforcement and may be liable for monetary penalties.

   Depending on the type of battery and applicable management requirements, batteries must be sent to a facility permitted to accept hazardous waste batteries, universal wastes, or spent lead acid batteries. Only facilities that have a DTSC permit or other type of authorization to treat, store, or dispose of hazardous wastes may accept hazardous waste. Facilities that do not have a DTSC permit may accept and store universal waste batteries and spent lead acid batteries if they operate according to the regulations specifically tailored for those types of batteries.

3) *Batteries in the trash*. According to CalRecycle's 2018 Waste Characterization Study, published May 2020, batteries, which include car, flashlight, small appliance, watch, and hearing aid batteries, represented 8,892 tons (0.0002%) of California's overall disposed waste stream. This figure does not distinguish between single-use and reusable batteries. As noted above, no batteries should be entering the state's landfills.

   According to Call2Recycle, a national organization that runs a battery stewardship and recycling program, California consumes 64 million Lithium-ion batteries every year. Of this 64 million, it is estimated that between 75 – 92% of these batteries are improperly disposed of. With the number of Lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries and products expected to double in the next seven years due to advancements in technology, the quantity of Lithium-ion batteries and products entering the waste stream will only increase.

4) *Battery dangers*. Lithium-ion batteries are widely used in electronics such as laptops, smart phones, digital cameras, children's toys, and vape pens. These batteries can explode and ignite whatever is nearby when bent or crushed. The batteries pose a risk throughout their life.

   While some products enable consumers to remove the battery prior to disposal, many make them extremely difficult to remove. Additionally, safer product design may not be compatible with the sleek, thin shape that consumers have come to expect and prefer in electronic devices. The shielding required to make the batteries safer adds bulk.

   Lithium-ion batteries are quite powerful and spark thermal events, or fires, when they are damaged. The batteries damage easily under pressure, such as squeezing or puncturing, or with friction. The frequent jostling, crushing and shredding in waste and recycling streams can cause battery smoking or combustion of adjacent materials in a collection truck, at Materials Recovery Facility (MRFs), in scrapyards or at transfer stations.

   According to information provided by the author, a recent examination of the workflow of a single MRF in California, on average 11 loose Li-ion batteries per hour were found in the waste stream. According to a 2018 California Product Stewardship Council report, 20 of 26 MRFs surveyed experienced at least one fire during the previous two years, 65% of which were attributed to discarded batteries, with 40% of those batteries identified as Li-ion. In 2016, a Li-ion battery ignited a fire inside RethinkWaste's MRF in San Carlos. The resulting blaze caused nearly $8.5 million in damages and forced the facility to close for 90 days.

"They're the toughest batteries for MRFs and haulers because they're high energy density, small and difficult to identify," said Carl Smith, CEO and president of nonprofit Call2Recycle. "The big thing we worry about is the puncture and shredding that takes place in waste. That can cause ignition."

5) *Current efforts to manage batteries.*

California Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act. Most portable electronic devices use rechargeable batteries and millions of rechargeable batteries are sold in California each year. As of 2005, to help promote proper disposal of rechargeable batteries by the public, the Act requires retailers, excluding large chain supermarkets and persons who have less than one million dollars annually in gross sales, to have a mechanism to accept all rechargeable batteries from consumers for recycling. Sales of rechargeable batteries that are contained in, or packaged with, a battery-operated device are not subject to the Act; however, a retailer selling replacement batteries for such devices must comply.

Additionally, the Act requires DTSC to survey battery handling and recycling facilities and post on its website, by July 1 of each year, the estimated amount of each type of rechargeable batteries returned for recycling. DTSC relies on data voluntarily submitted by the major California battery recyclers to estimate how many rechargeable batteries, by type (e.g., nickel-cadmium, nickel metal hydride, etc.), are collected in each calendar year.

According to DTSC's website, the following are approximate quantities of rechargeable batteries collected for recycling in California in 2020:

- 408,823 pounds of lithium ion batteries
- 252,969 pounds of nickel cadmium batteries
- 77,766 pounds of nickel metal hydride batteries
- 4,810,578 pounds of small sealed lead acid batteries

According to DTSC, accurately estimating the amount of rechargeable batteries collected for recycling in California can be difficult for the following reasons:

- Some battery handlers and recyclers do not track the state from which batteries are collected;
- Batteries contained in electronic devices that are recycled (such as cell phones and laptop computers) are not counted separately but may represent a significant portion of the total quantity;

- There may be duplicate data as some battery handlers collect batteries from other collection points; and
- California law does not require battery handlers or recyclers to report the number or weight of batteries collected for recycling.

The Cell Phone Recycling Act of 2004. Since 2006, the Cell Phone Recycling Act has required retailers to have in place, and promote, a system for accepting and collecting used cellular phones for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal, at no cost to the consumer. Consumers usually replace their cellular phones about every 18 months. Used cellular phones contain hazardous substances and should not be disposed of with regular household waste. Circuit boards in cellular phones contain arsenic, antimony, beryllium, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, and zinc. The rechargeable batteries used with cellular phones contain cobalt, zinc, and copper.

Call2Recycle. Call2Recycle, a non-profit organization, is a voluntary, industry-run program that collects and recycles rechargeable and single-use batteries through collection sites located throughout the country. The types of batteries that are accepted vary between collection sites.

Household hazardous waste facilities. Batteries can also be taken to household hazardous waste facilities. DTSC provides a list of household hazardous waste facilities by city on its website. These facilities are typically run either directly by a local jurisdiction, or by an entity as a contractual agreement with a local jurisdiction, as a part of the jurisdiction's household hazardous waste management program. Access to a household hazardous waste facility differs throughout the state.

6) *Product Stewardship*. Product stewardship, also known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), is the concept of sharing responsibility for end-of-life product management between all entities involved in the product's life, from production to disposal (or recycling), instead of the public and local governments. Product stewardship encourages product design changes to minimize a negative impact on human health and the environment at every stage of the product's lifecycle. This allows the costs of treatment and disposal to be incorporated into the total cost of a product. It places primary responsibility on the producer, or brand owner, since they make design and marketing decisions. It also encourages the market to truly reflect the environmental costs of a product.

By shifting costs and responsibilities of product disposal to producers and others who directly benefit, EPR provides an incentive to eliminate waste and pollution through product design changes.

Comments

1) *Purpose of Bill.* According to the author, "Because of the hazardous metals and corrosive materials that batteries contain, California classifies batteries as hazardous waste and bans them from solid waste landfills. When improperly discarded, lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries in particular pose serious fire, health and safety hazards. In a world where batteries are increasingly powering everything, we still haven't solved for how to safely dispose of them. Currently, an estimated 75-92% of lithium-ion batteries are disposed of improperly.

   "The influx of these batteries into our waste stream has resulted in an alarming number of fires in our material recovery facilities, waste collection trucks, and landfills – fires that pose serious toxic threats to the health and safety of workers, firefighters and the surrounding community. SB 1215 will replace the current, labyrinthine and unsafe process for battery disposal with a safe, convenient, and accessible system for consumers to safely dispose of depleted batteries. SB 1215 requires the producers of batteries and battery-embedded products sold in California to develop, finance, and implement this program in collaboration with CalRecycle to recover and recycle their products."

2) *Consumer education may not be enough.* Despite the increase of batteries in consumer products, the number of batteries that are collected for recycling is trending downward. This implies that, despite consumer education efforts, batteries continue to be improperly disposed of in the waste stream.

3) *Piecemeal efforts have led to uneven consumer convenience*. Current state programs do not collect single-use batteries and lithium-ion battery embedded products that are not cell phones. Call2Recycle's program, which collects rechargeable batteries, cell phones, and single-use batteries, allows consumers to drop off their used batteries at collection sites at no cost. However, the program is voluntary, making the availability of collection sites dependent on the willingness of an entity to operate a collection site. For instance, according to Call2Recycle's website, the closest collection site for single-use batteries to the California State Capitol is in Roseville, and the second closest location is in Stockton. In Los Angeles and Chico, there are not any collection sites for single-use batteries within 50 miles of those cities; in comparison to San Francisco which has an abundance of collection sites for single-use batteries. If

a consumer does not have access to a Call2Recycle collection site, a consumer may purchase collection kits from Call2Recycle, which start at $45 for a small "battery and cell phone recycling box."

As noted above, DTSC's website provides a list, by city, of household hazardous waste collection facilities which would accept batteries and battery embedded products along with other household hazardous waste products. However, it is unclear if there is at least one collection facility in each county, if there are enough household hazardous waste collection facilities to adequately serve the population of any given jurisdiction, or if they are conveniently located for consumer access. For example, there are 2 facilities located in the City of Sacramento, 1 in San Francisco, 3 in Los Angeles, and none in Fresno/Clovis.

It can be said that the lack of free and convenient access to recycling for all batteries and battery-embedded products is what leads to their improper disposal.

SB 1215 repeals the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Act and the Cell Phone Recycling Act and instead replaces those programs with a comprehensive EPR program in order to improve the collection and recycling of batteries and place the responsibility on those that profit from the sale of these products to also play a key role in its management. The bill, which covers all battery chemistries, sets up two completely separate stewardship programs, one for "loose batteries" and one for "battery-imbedded products." It provides a number of battery exemptions, including batteries that already have a successful program (e.g., vehicle lead acid batteries), medical devices, and large utility batteries (e.g., battery walls and utility storage units).

Unlike Call2Recycle's voluntary program, SB 1215 would ensure consumer access to collection sites by requiring that the stewardship plan include a minimum number of collection sites per county or per number of people (yet to-be-determined), whichever is greater. It would also require retail chains serve as a collection site for covered products under a certain size (yet to-be-determined).

Importantly, the bill also ensures that the batteries collected by the stewardship organization be recycled, not sent to the landfill. Finally, the measure includes performance standards for collection infrastructure, an education and outreach component, and oversight and enforcement provisions that closely align with previously enacted product stewardship programs (i.e., pharmaceutical and

sharps waste stewardship program established by SB 212, Jackson, Chapter 1004, Statutes of 2018).

4) *Many variables*. SB 1215 covers most consumer batteries and battery-embedded products, requiring the producers of each of those covered products to form a stewardship organization either individually or collectively. This could lead to one or many stewardship organizations. Additionally, each stewardship organization would have its own stewardship plan, each of which CalRecycle would be responsible for the approval and oversight. Also, different products likley have different management needs. Thus, while comprehensive, SB 1215 also presents a lot of variables and factors that must be taken into consideration when implementing the bill.

5) *Mixed results for California EPR programs.* To date, the Legislature has enacted four EPR programs of which CalRecycle has enforcement authority – paint, carpet, mattresses, and pharmaceutical and sharps waste – showing varying degrees of success. While CalRecycle does not appear to have oversight issues with the paint stewardship program, CalRecycle was subject to an audit for its oversight of the mattress recycling program. The carpet recycling program has encountered the most challenges of the EPR programs with the enforcement history of the carpet stewardship organization being extensive and complicated.

6) *EPR checklist*. Based on CalRecyle's experience with the four EPR programs mentioned above, the department prepared an EPR "checklist" of program elements it considers critical to best achieve a successful EPR program. Of note on the checklist is the importance of clearly defining key terms, such as Producer, covered products, and responsible parties, as well as providing adequate funding to achieve program goals, oversight, and enforcement.

   The checklist states that an EPR program *must* include the following tiered definition of Producer to ensure streamlined enforcement at the first point of entry into California, lower fiscal impacts to the State oversight agency, and provide a level playing field to all Producers:
   a) The person who manufactures the covered product and who sells, offers for sale, or distributes the product in the state.
   b) If there is no person who is the manufacturer of the product for the purpose of paragraph (a), the manufacturer of the covered product is the person who imports the product into the state for sale or distribution.
   c) If there is no person who is the manufacturer for the purpose of paragraphs (a) and b), the manufacturer is the person who sells the product in the state.

The sponsor of SB 1215 crafted this proposal in line with CalRecycle's EPR checklist.

7) *A work in progress*. As the bill progresses through the legislative process, the Committee may wish to direct the author to work with stakeholders and committee staff on a number of outstanding issues, including:
   a) Establishing an equitable mandate for online retailers;
   b) Setting limits on the size of battery embedded products retailers will be required to takeback;
   c) Establishing a minimum number of collection sites per county to ensure consumer convenience; and
   d) Incorporating flexibility to the program that would allow for the inclusion of evolving technology.

8) *Committee amendments*. ***Staff recommends the committee adopt the bolded amendments below:***
   a) Require the statewide education and outreach plan promote the safe and proper management of used batteries.
   b) Require all handling, collection, transport, and recycling of covered batteries or covered battery-embedded products undertaken as part of a stewardship program comply with all applicable regulations, in addition to complying with applicable state and federal laws.
   c) Authorize CalRecycle to re-list a producer that was removed from its website for non-compliance if it later determines the producer to be in compliance with the Act.
   d) Authorize DTSC to require producers, upon request, to provide the department with relevant records necessary to determine compliance with the Act.
   e) Clarify that nothing in the Act prohibits DTSC from taking any enforcement action under the HWCL.

Related/Prior Legislation

SB 1153 (Archuleta) Requires a battery handling or battery recycling facility to provide specified data to the DTSC related to the rechargeable batteries returned for recycling during the prior year. This bill is pending before this Committee.

AB 2440 (Irwin) creates the Responsible Battery Recycling Act (Act) of 2022, which requires producers of covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products, as defined, to establish a stewardship program for the collection and recycling of covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products. This bill is

pending before the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

SB 289 (Newman, 2021) would have enacted the Battery and Battery-Embedded Product Recycling and Fire Risk Reduction Act of 2021, which would have required the producers of batteries and battery-embedded products to establish a stewardship program for those products, with full implementation on or before June 30, 2025. This bill was held on the suspense file in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 244 (Archuleta, 2021) would have required CalRecycle, in consultation with DTSC, to develop guidance for the proper handling and disposal of lithium-ion batteries and would have required the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to develop protocols and training for the detection, safe-handling, and suppression of fires started from discarded lithium-ion batteries in the waste-handling system to be adopted by solid waste enterprises. SB 244 was vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1509 (Mullin, Berman, 2019) would have established a Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling Program within CalRecycle that required manufacturers of lithium-ion batteries to provide convenient collection, transportation, and disposal of lithium-ion batteries. AB 1509 was held in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

AB 2832 (Dahle, Chapter 822, Statutes of 2018) requires the Secretary for CalEPA to convene a research group to review and advise the Legislature on policies pertaining to the recovery and recycling of lithium-ion vehicle batteries sold with motor vehicles in the state.

AB 2284 (Williams, 2014) would have required producers of non-rechargeable household batteries to develop and submit a plan to collect and manage batteries sold in the state. AB 2284 was held in the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

SB 515 (Corbett, 2011) would have required a producer of batteries sold in California to develop and implement a household battery stewardship plan describing how it would achieve collection of household batteries and the maxiumum feasible recovery of materials from the collected batteries. SB 515 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SOURCE: RethinkWaste, California Product Stewardship Council, Californians Against Waste

SUPPORT:

Active San Gabriel Valley
California Resource Recovery Association
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
California Waste Haulers Council
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
City of Roseville
City of Thousand Oaks
Clean Water Action
Cr&r, INC.
Delta Diablo
Environmental Working Group
League of California Cities
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Marin Household Hazardous Waste Facility
Monterey Regional Waste Management District
Napa Recycling & Waste Services
Recyclesmart
Republic Services - Western Region
Republic Services INC.
Resource Recovery Coalition of California
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)
Santa Clara County Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission
Sea Hugger
Stopwaste
Urban Counties of California
Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA)
Zero Waste Company
Zero Waste Sonoma

OPPOSITION:

Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to RethinkWaste, California Product Stewardship Council, and Californians Against Waste, "For the average consumer, it can often be difficult to distinguish between chemistries of batteries, such as alkaline, nickel cadmium, and Li-ion. Therefore, to ensure the proper disposal of all battery chemistries and reduce the fire and safety risk, SB 1215 would require free collection for most loose and product-embedded batteries at convenient locations across the state. SB 1215 would also encourage manufacturers to be more responsible for the life cycle of their products by creating a producer-run program.

Lastly, SB 1215 would support a circular economy by battery recycling to the extent that is economically and technically feasible.

“Manufacturers must be more responsible for the products they create – both loose batteries and ones embedded in other products – if we are going to protect our workers, communities, and waste management infrastructure from battery-related fires."

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