

# What is Going on in Maryland?: *Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety*

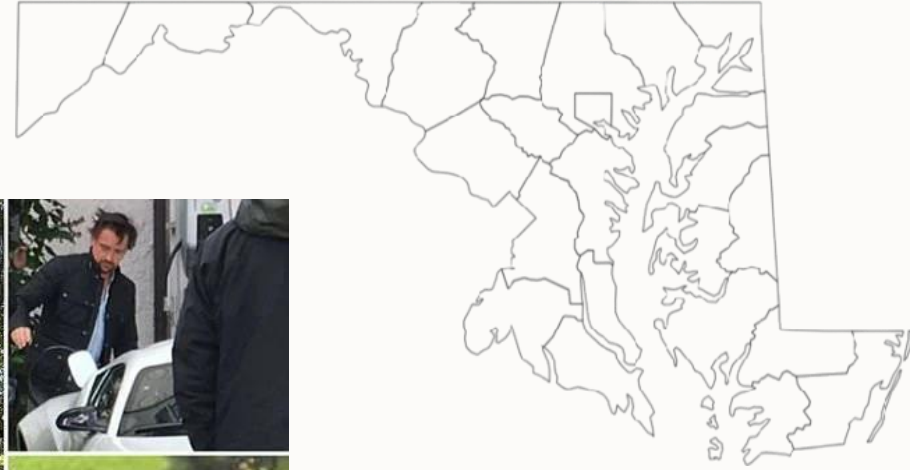


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# With More Batteries Come More Battery Fires



*June 2025 Morning Midas Ship Fire*



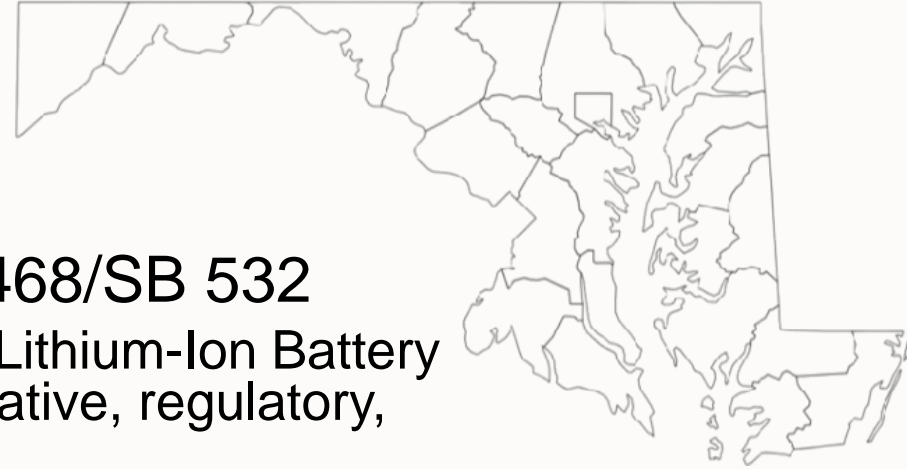
*2017 Rimac Concept 1 Crash*



*Scooter Fire*

- The increase in public awareness of battery-related fires has resulted in increased legislative and regulatory activity by policymakers
- ARA tracked over 210 bills and regulations in 2025 related to batteries and electric vehicles

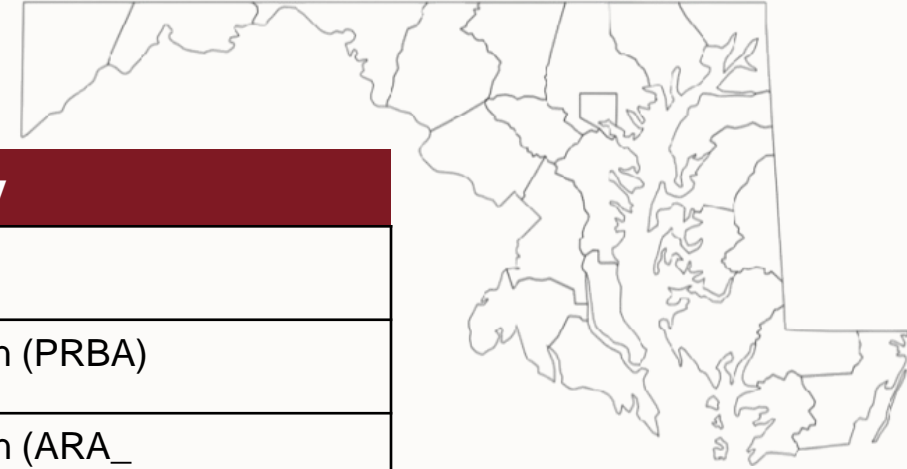
# Commission Background



- In 2024, Maryland General Assembly passed HB 468/SB 532
  - Established the creation of the Commission to Advance Lithium-Ion Battery Safety in Maryland, which was tasked with making legislative, regulatory, programmatic, and other recommendations on:
    1. Consumer applications
    2. Transportation applications
    3. Utility applications
    4. Battery reuse
    5. Battery recycling and decommissioning
    6. Viability of Extended Producer Responsibility
    7. Education and Training for first responders and the public
  
- Final Report Due December 1, 2025



# Commission Membership



First Responders/Regulators	Industry
Howard County Office of the Fire Marshal	Pepco Holdings, Inc.
Maryland State Fire Fighters Association	Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA)
Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service	Automotive Recyclers Association (ARA_
Office of the State Fire Marshal	Maryland Recycling Network (MRN)
Maryland Fire Rescue Institute (MFRI)	WM
Department of the Environment (MDE)	Tesla
Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)	Recycled Materials Association (ReMA)
Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection	Ion Storage Systems, Inc.
Bureau of Solid Waste Baltimore County	
Maryland Department of Natural Resources	
Maryland Public Service Commission	

# Process

- Factfinding and Research
- Policy Development
- Recommendations and Drafting of Report



# Timeline



**Oct. 2024**

Selection of Chair, review of authorizing legislation, establishment of subcommittees

**Nov. 2024**

Passage of Interim Report to the General Assembly

**Nov. 2024**

Review of existing state initiatives to collect and handle discarded and DDR batteries

**Dec. 2024**

Briefing: "Overview of Lithium-Ion Battery Hazards and Protection Strategies"

**Feb. 2025**

Briefing: "Learning from Events – the Evolving State of EV and Battery Safety Regulations, Standards and Practice"

**Mar. 2025**

Briefings: "Salvage Wire - Safe High Voltage Vehicle Dismantling"; "Cirba Solutions – Battery Recycling and Solutions for the Battery Supply Chain"; "Recycled Materials Association – Position on Non-Embedded Small & Medium Format End-of-Life Battery Management"

**Apr. 2025**

Briefing: "AES Clean Energy -- Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems Safety"

**May 2025**

Briefings: "B2U Storage Solutions Inc. – Second Life BESS Systems"; "Maryland Department of the Environment – Responding to Battery Initiated Events"

**Jun. 2025**

Briefing: "Rechargeable Battery Association (PRBA) – Survey on Battery Extended Producer Responsibility Laws"

**Aug. 2025**

Briefing: "U.S. Coast Guard – Lithium-Ion Battery Maritime Concerns"

**Sept. 2025**

Reviewed preliminary findings

**Oct. 2025**

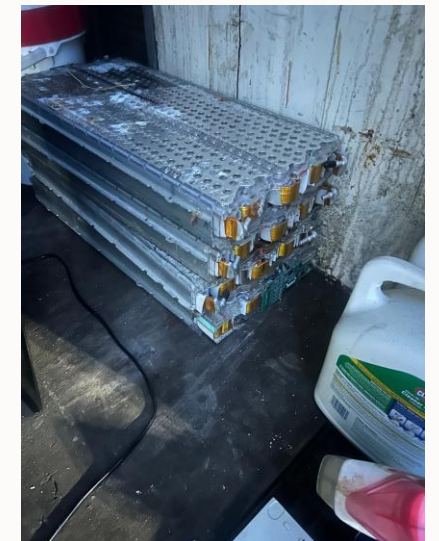
Final Report Development

**Nov. 2025**

Final Report Development

# Site Visits

- Montgomery County lithium-ion battery safety demonstration
- Visit to recycling facility to learn about the challenges associated with improper battery disposal
- Visit to HVV Certified Vehicle Dismantler



*Stranded vehicle batteries*

# Core Findings



- Need for statewide public education campaigns on the proper use of batteries and the risks associated with improper battery disposal
  - Regular review of model code provisions for incorporation in both state and local regulations
  - Maryland's first responders need specialized training, tools, and PPE for addressing lithium-ion battery fire events
  - Large volumes of batteries being improperly discarded regardless of type (small, medium format, and vehicle batteries) are increasing costs for state funded agencies
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# Recommendations



- Create statewide educational initiatives to raise public awareness of battery risks and proper recycling
  - Fund training for Maryland Fire Rescue Institute to develop battery response training for local fire departments
  - Fund Maryland Department of the Environment efforts to collect, transport, store, and safely recycle recovered batteries
  - Support legislation to establish an extended producer responsibility program for small, medium-format, and large-format batteries
  - Extend the mandate of the Commission to allow for additional review of:
    - Port of Baltimore
    - Battery fires and increased insurance risks
    - Review of waste classifications
    - Incorporate pending regulations and third-party standards
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# The Path Forward



- Final report to be submitted to the Maryland General Assembly on December 1, 2025
- Desire is for the report to serve as a resource to policymakers nationwide
- Incorporation of background materials in an appendix for use as a reference guide





# Question & Answer



Thank You!



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