

House Ways and Means Committee

H.695 EPR for Primary Batteries

March 18, 2014

The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) supports the proposal by manufacturers of primary batteries to establish a primary battery recycling program in Vermont. ANR worked with representatives of primary battery manufacturers and other stakeholders in the House Committee on Natural Resources and embraces the opportunity to help implement the program approved by that committee.

There are more than 150 primary battery manufacturers that sell batteries in the United States, according to information supplied by Corporation for Battery Recycling. It is also estimated there are more than 10 million primary batteries sold each year in Vermont. This bill would require primary battery manufacturers who sell batteries in Vermont to develop and implement plan(s) for the collection and recycling of primary batteries. Manufacturers are encouraged to work together through a stewardship organization to develop and implement a plan for statewide collection of primary batteries.

ANR Responsibilities:

ANR will have on-going responsibilities with the oversight of the proposed EPR program for primary batteries, including the following:

- Review and approve proposed battery stewardship plan(s)
 - Term for a plan cannot exceed 5 years, so this will be on-going work
 - Post for public comment and address all comments received
- Review and approve amendments to battery stewardship plan(s)
 - Post for public comment and address all comments received
- Register primary and rechargeable battery stewardship organizations
- Create and maintain a website, posts plan(s), post lists of all primary battery producers and brands; keep all information up to date
- Report to the legislature
- ANR will also have to dedicate staff time to take calls, answer questions, provide information, manage complaints and other general assistance required for oversight on a new program.
- ANR staff time will likely be needed to assist stewardship organizations in understanding requirements of program and how to establish collection services to meet requirements.

FEE:

The bill requires an annual fee of \$15,000 for each plan.

If all manufacturers participated in one plan, this would be less than \$100/year/manufacturer.

With respect to a per battery cost, \$15,000 would be approximately one-tenth of one cent per battery sold in Vermont, but please note this cost is not required to be included in the Vermont sales.

- Fee for each plan provides an incentive for manufacturers to work together to submit a plan.
- This is the same fee per plan included in the Paint EPR law passed last year.
- \$15,000 is equivalent to ~0.2 FTE for ANR's oversight of the program.
- There are no other statewide battery programs that can be used for comparison.