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**Act No. 152 (S.254). An act relating to including rechargeable batteries and battery-containing products under the State battery stewardship program**

**Subjects: Conservation and development; waste management; extended producer responsibility; batteries; battery-containing products**

This act amends the existing Battery Stewardship Program at the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) by expanding the Program to require producers of rechargeable batteries and battery-containing products to participate in the Program. A “battery-containing-product” is defined as an electronic product that contains primary or rechargeable batteries that are easily removable or is packaged with rechargeable or primary batteries. A “battery-containing product” does not mean a product subject to the State covered electronic device collection program or to a product in which the batteries used are already covered under the Battery Stewardship Program. The act also increases the size of covered primary batteries subject to the Program from a maximum of 4.4 pounds to a maximum of 25 pounds.

Under the act, the sale of rechargeable batteries or battery-containing products would be prohibited beginning on January 1, 2026, unless the producer of the rechargeable battery or battery-containing product is participating in the Battery Stewardship Program. Similarly, the act bans the landfill disposal of rechargeable batteries and primary batteries beginning on July 1, 2024. The act also makes multiple amendments to the requirements of the Battery Stewardship Program, including amendments to the required components of the required collection plan. In addition, the act requires ANR to complete an assessment of the opportunities, challenges, and feasibility of mandatory end-of-life management programs for batteries used in hybrid and electric vehicles, battery energy storage systems, and batteries that are not easily removable from the products they power.

The act also extends from January 1, 2025, to July 1, 2025, the deadline by which manufacturers of household hazardous products are required to register a stewardship organization under the extended producer responsibility program for household hazardous products. In addition, the act provides ANR with statutory authority to implement administrative use controls at sites with hazardous material contamination.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on July 1, 2024