

1 S.254

2 Introduced by Senators Bray, Hardy, Perchlik and White

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Conservation and development; waste management; extended

6 producer responsibility; rechargeable batteries

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the

8 State's existing battery stewardship program for primary batteries to also apply

9 to rechargeable batteries and battery-containing products.

10 An act relating to including rechargeable batteries and battery-containing  
11 products under the State battery stewardship program

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. chapter 168 is amended to read:

14 CHAPTER 168. PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP FOR PRIMARY BATTERIES

15 AND RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

16 Subchapter 1. Definitions

17 § 7581. DEFINITIONS

18 As used in this chapter:

19 (1) "Agency" means the Agency of Natural Resources.

1           (2)(A) “Battery-containing product” means an electronic product that  
2           contains primary or rechargeable batteries that are easily removable or is  
3           packaged with rechargeable or primary batteries.

4           (B) A “battery-containing product” does not include an electronic  
5           product regulated under an approved plan implemented under chapter 166 of  
6           this title.

7           (3) “Brand” means a name, symbol, word, or traceable mark that  
8           identifies a primary or rechargeable battery and attributes the primary battery  
9           to the owner or licensee of the brand as the producer.

10          ~~(3)~~(4) “Calendar year” means the period commencing January 1 and  
11          ending December 31 of the same year.

12          ~~(4)~~(5) “Collection rate” means a percentage by weight that each  
13          producer or primary battery stewardship organization collects by an established  
14          date. The collection rate shall be calculated by dividing the total weight of the  
15          primary batteries that are collected during a calendar year by the average  
16          annual weight of primary batteries that were estimated to have been sold in the  
17          State by participating producers during the previous three calendar years.  
18          Estimates of primary batteries sold in the State may be based on a reasonable  
19          pro rata calculation based on national sales.

20          ~~(5)~~(6) “Consumer” means any person who presents or delivers any  
21          number of primary batteries to a collection facility that is included in an

1 ~~approved primary battery stewardship plan~~ “Covered battery” means a primary  
2 battery or rechargeable battery.

3 ~~(6)(7) “Consumer product” means any product that is regularly used or~~  
4 ~~purchased to be used for personal, family, or household purposes. “Consumer~~  
5 ~~product” shall not mean a product primarily used or purchased for industrial or~~  
6 ~~business use~~ “Covered entity” means a person who presents to a collection  
7 facility or event that is included in an approved collection plan any number of  
8 covered batteries.

9 ~~(7)(8) “Discarded primary battery” means a primary battery that is no~~  
10 ~~longer used for its manufactured purpose~~ “Damaged and defective lithium  
11 battery” means a lithium battery that has been damaged or is defective for  
12 safety reasons or that has the potential of producing a dangerous evolution of  
13 heat, fire, or short circuit, as referred to in 49 C.F.R. § 173.185(f) or as updated  
14 by the Secretary by rule to maintain consistency with federal standards.

15 ~~(8)(9) “Easily removable” means readily detachable~~ from a product by a  
16 person without the use of tools or with the use of common household tools.

17 ~~(9)(10) “Participate” means to appoint a primary battery stewardship~~  
18 ~~organization or rechargeable battery stewardship organization~~ to operate on  
19 behalf of oneself and to have that appointment accepted by the stewardship  
20 organization.

1           ~~(10)~~(11) “Primary battery” means a nonrechargeable battery weighing  
2           ~~two kilograms~~ 4.4 pounds or less, including alkaline, silver oxide, zinc air,  
3           carbon-zinc, and lithium metal batteries. Beginning on January 1, 2026,  
4           “primary battery” includes a nonrechargeable battery weighing more than  
5           4.4 pounds but not more than 25 pounds. “Primary battery” ~~shall~~ does not  
6           mean:

7                   (A) ~~a battery intended for industrial, business-to-business, warranty~~  
8                   ~~or maintenance services, or nonpersonal use;~~

9                   ~~(B)~~ a battery that is sold in a computer, computer monitor, computer  
10                  peripheral, printer, television, or device containing a cathode ray tube;

11                  ~~(C)~~ a battery that is not easily removable ~~or is not intended to be~~  
12                  ~~removed from a consumer product~~ from a battery-containing product; and or

13                  ~~(D)~~(B) a battery that is sold or used in a medical device, as that term  
14                  is defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 321(h), as  
15                  may be amended contained within a medical device, as specified in 21 U.S.C.  
16                  § 321(h) as it existed on July 1, 2024, that is not designed and marketed for  
17                  sale or resale at retail locations for personal use.

18                  ~~(11)~~(12) “~~Primary battery~~ Battery producer,” “battery-containing  
19                  product producer,” or “producer” means one of the following with regard to a  
20                  ~~primary~~ battery or battery-containing product that is sold or offered for sale in  
21                  the State:

1           (A) a person who manufactures a ~~primary~~ battery or battery-  
2           containing product and who sells or offers for sale that ~~primary~~ battery or  
3           battery-containing product in the State under the person’s own name or brand;

4           (B) if subdivision (A) of this subdivision ~~(11)~~(12) does not apply, a  
5           person who owns or licenses a trademark or brand under which a ~~primary~~  
6           battery or battery-containing product is sold or offered for sale whether or not  
7           the trademark is registered; or

8           (C) if subdivisions (A) and (B) of this subdivision ~~(11)~~(12) do not  
9           apply, a person who imports a ~~primary~~ battery or battery-containing product  
10          into the State for sale.

11          ~~(12)~~(13) “~~Primary battery~~ Battery stewardship organization” means an  
12          organization appointed by one or more producers to act as an agent on behalf  
13          of a producer or producers to design, submit, implement, and administer a  
14          ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan under this chapter.

15          ~~(13)~~(14) “~~Primary battery~~ Battery stewardship plan” or “plan” means a  
16          plan submitted to the Secretary pursuant to section 7584 of this title by an  
17          individual producer or a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization.

18          ~~(14)~~(15) “Program” or “stewardship program” means the system for the  
19          collection, transportation, recycling, and disposal of ~~primary~~ batteries  
20          implemented pursuant to an approved battery stewardship plan.

21          ~~(15)~~(16)(A) “Rechargeable battery” means:

1 (i) one or more voltaic or galvanic cells, electrically connected to  
2 produce electric energy and designed to be recharged ~~and weighing less than~~  
3 ~~11 pounds; or~~

4 (ii) ~~a battery pack designed to be recharged that weighs less than~~  
5 ~~11 pounds and that is designed to provide less than 40 volts direct current.~~  
6 weighing not more than 25 pounds; and

7 (iii) having a watt-hour rating of not more than 2,000 watt-hours.

8 (B) “Rechargeable battery” ~~shall~~ does not mean:

9 (i) a battery that is not easily removable ~~or is not intended or~~  
10 ~~designed to be removed from the covered product, other than by the~~  
11 ~~manufacturer~~ from a battery-containing product;

12 (ii) a battery that contains electrolyte as a free liquid;

13 (iii) a battery ~~or battery pack~~ that employs lead-acid technology,  
14 unless the battery ~~or battery pack~~:

15 (I) is sealed;

16 (II) contains no liquid electrolyte; and

17 (III) ~~is intended by its manufacturer to power a handheld device~~  
18 ~~or to provide uninterrupted backup electrical power protection for stationary~~  
19 ~~consumer products or stationary office equipment~~ weighs not more than 11  
20 pounds; or

1                   (iv) ~~a battery intended for industrial, business-to-business,~~  
2 ~~warranty or maintenance services, or nonpersonal use~~ a battery recalled by the  
3 producer for safety reasons; or

4                   (v) a battery contained within a medical device, as specified in  
5 21 U.S.C. § 321(h) as it existed on July 1, 2024, that is not designed and  
6 marketed for sale or resale principally at retail for personal use.

7                   (16) ~~“Rechargeable battery steward” means a person who:~~

8                   ~~(A) manufactures a rechargeable battery or a rechargeable product~~  
9 ~~that is sold, offered for sale, or distributed in the State under its own brand~~  
10 ~~name;~~

11                   ~~(B) owns or licenses a trademark or brand under which a~~  
12 ~~rechargeable battery or rechargeable product is sold, offered for sale, or~~  
13 ~~distributed in the State, whether or not the trademark is registered; or~~

14                   ~~(C) if subdivisions (A) and (B) of this subdivision (16) do not apply,~~  
15 ~~imports a rechargeable battery or rechargeable product into the State for sale or~~  
16 ~~distribution.~~

17                   (17) ~~“Rechargeable battery stewardship organization” means an entity~~  
18 ~~registered by the Secretary pursuant to section 7588 of this title that is either a~~  
19 ~~single rechargeable battery steward operating on its own behalf; an~~  
20 ~~organization appointed by one or more rechargeable battery stewards to~~

1 ~~operate a plan in which each steward is participating; or a retailer or franchisor~~  
2 ~~of retailers operating a plan on behalf of itself or its franchisees.~~

3 ~~(18) “Rechargeable product” means a consumer product that contains or~~  
4 ~~is packaged with a rechargeable battery at the time the product is sold, offered~~  
5 ~~for sale, or distributed in the State. “Rechargeable product” shall not mean:~~

6 ~~(A) a product from which a rechargeable battery is not easily~~  
7 ~~removable or is not intended or designed to be removed from the product other~~  
8 ~~than by the manufacturer; or~~

9 ~~(B) a medical device, as that term is defined in the Federal Food,~~  
10 ~~Drug, and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C. § 321(h), as amended.~~

11 ~~(19)~~(17) “Recycling” means any process by which discarded products,  
12 components, and ~~by-products~~ byproducts are transformed into new usable or  
13 marketable materials in a manner in which the original products may lose their  
14 identity, but does not include energy recovery or energy generation by means  
15 of combusting discarded products, components, and ~~by-products~~ byproducts  
16 with or without other waste products.

17 ~~(20)~~(18) “Retailer” means a person who offers a primary covered  
18 battery or battery-containing product for sale ~~to any consumer or business at~~  
19 ~~retail~~ in the State through any means, including remote offerings such as sales  
20 outlets, catalogues, or an internet website.

21 ~~(21)~~(19) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Natural Resources.



1                   Subchapter 2. ~~Primary~~ Battery Stewardship Program

2           § 7582. SALE OF PRIMARY BATTERIES, RECHARGEABLE

3                   BATTERIES, AND BATTERY-CONTAINING PRODUCTS

4           (a) Sale prohibited. Except as set forth under ~~subsections (b) and (c)~~  
5           subsection (b) of this section, ~~beginning on January 1, 2016~~, a producer of a  
6           primary battery, of a rechargeable battery, or of a battery-containing product  
7           shall not sell, offer for sale, or deliver to a retailer for subsequent sale a  
8           primary battery, a rechargeable battery, or a battery-containing product unless:

9                   (1) the producer or the ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization in  
10           which the producer is participating is registered under an approved and  
11           implemented ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan;

12                   (2) the producer or ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization has paid  
13           the fee under section 7594 of this title; and

14                   (3) the name of the producer and the producer's brand are designated on  
15           the Agency website as covered by an approved ~~primary~~ battery stewardship  
16           plan.

17           (b) New producers.

18                   (1) A producer of a primary battery who, after January 1, 2016, seeks to  
19           sell, offer for sale, or offer for promotional purposes in the State a primary  
20           battery not previously sold in State shall notify the Secretary prior to selling or

1 offering for sale or promotion a primary battery not covered by an approved  
2 ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan.

3 (2) A producer of a rechargeable battery or battery-containing product  
4 who, after January 1, 2026, seeks to sell, offer for sale, or offer for promotional  
5 purposes in the State a rechargeable battery or battery-containing product not  
6 previously sold in State shall notify the Secretary prior to selling or offering for  
7 sale or promotion a rechargeable battery or battery-containing product not  
8 covered by an approved battery stewardship plan.

9 (3) The Secretary shall list a producer who supplies notice under this  
10 subsection as a “new producer” on the Agency’s website. A producer that  
11 supplies notice under this subsection shall have 90 days, not including the time  
12 required for public comment under subsection 7586(c) of this section, to either  
13 join an existing ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization or submit a ~~primary~~  
14 battery stewardship plan for approval to the State.

15 ~~(e) Exemption. A producer who annually sells, offers for sale, distributes,~~  
16 ~~or imports in or into the State primary batteries with a total retail value of less~~  
17 ~~than \$2,000.00 shall be exempt from the requirements of this chapter.~~

18 § 7583. ~~PRIMARY~~ BATTERY STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATION;

19 REQUIREMENTS; REGISTRATION

20 (a) Participation in a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization. A producer  
21 of ~~primary~~ covered batteries or battery-containing products may meet the

1 requirements of this chapter by participating in a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship  
2 organization that undertakes the producer's responsibilities under  
3 sections 7582, 7584, and 7585 of this title.

4 (b) Qualifications for a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization. To  
5 qualify as a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization under this chapter, an  
6 organization shall:

7 (1) commit to assume the responsibilities, obligations, and liabilities of  
8 all producers participating in the ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization;

9 (2) not create unreasonable barriers for participation by producers in the  
10 ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization; and

11 (3) maintain a public website that lists all producers and producers'  
12 brands covered by the ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization's approved  
13 collection plan.

14 (c) Registration requirements.

15 (1) ~~Beginning on March 1, 2015 and annually thereafter, a primary~~  
16 Annually, a battery stewardship organization shall file a registration form with  
17 the Secretary. The Secretary shall provide the registration form to a ~~primary~~  
18 battery stewardship organization. The registration form shall require  
19 submission of the following information:

20 (A) a list of the producers participating in the ~~primary~~ battery  
21 stewardship organization;

1 (B) the name, address, and contact information of a person  
2 responsible for ensuring a producer's compliance with this chapter;

3 (C) a description of how the ~~primary~~ battery stewardship  
4 organization proposes to meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this  
5 section, including any reasonable requirements for participation in the ~~primary~~  
6 battery stewardship organization; and

7 (D) the name, address, and contact information of a person for a  
8 nonmember manufacturer to contact on how to participate in the ~~primary~~  
9 battery stewardship organization to satisfy the requirements of this chapter.

10 (2) A renewal of a registration without changes may be accomplished  
11 through notifying the Secretary on a form provided by the Secretary.

12 § 7584. ~~PRIMARY~~ BATTERY STEWARDSHIP PLAN

13 (a) ~~Primary battery~~ Battery stewardship plan required. ~~On or before June 1,~~  
14 ~~2015, each~~ Each producer selling, offering for sale, distributing, or offering for  
15 promotional purposes a primary battery, a rechargeable battery, or a battery-  
16 containing product in the State shall individually or as part of a ~~primary~~ battery  
17 stewardship organization submit a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan to the  
18 Secretary for review.

19 (b) ~~Primary battery~~ Battery stewardship plan; minimum requirements.  
20 Each ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan shall include, at a minimum, all of the  
21 following elements:

1           (1) List of producers and brands. Each ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan  
2 shall list:

3                   (A) all participating producers and contact information for each of  
4 the participating producers; and

5                   (B) the brands of ~~primary~~ batteries or battery-containing products  
6 covered by the plan.

7           (2) Free collection. Each ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan shall provide  
8 for the collection of ~~primary~~ covered batteries from ~~consumers~~ covered entities  
9 at no cost to ~~consumers~~ covered entities. A producer shall not refuse the  
10 collection of a ~~primary~~ covered battery based on the brand or producer of the  
11 ~~primary~~ battery.

12           (3) Collection; convenience. ~~Each primary~~ Except for damaged and  
13 defective lithium batteries and lithium-ion batteries with over 300 watt-hours,  
14 each battery stewardship plan shall:

15                   (A) Allow all retailers ~~who meet requirements specified in the plan,~~  
16 all municipalities, ~~and all~~ certified solid waste management facilities, and  
17 certified salvage yards that meet requirements specified in the plan to opt in to  
18 be a collection facility.

19                   (B) Provide, at a minimum, ~~no~~ not fewer than two collection facilities  
20 in each county in the State that provide for collection throughout the year.

1           (C) Provide for the acceptance ~~from a consumer~~ of up to 100  
2 batteries per visit. A collection facility may agree to accept more than 100  
3 batteries per visit ~~from a consumer~~.

4           (4) Collection of damaged and defective lithium batteries and lithium-  
5 ion batteries with over 300 watt-hours. Each battery stewardship plan shall:

6                 (A) allow any certified solid waste facility to collect damaged and  
7 defective lithium batteries and lithium-ion batteries with over 300 watt-hours,  
8 provided that facility can meet the safety requirements as outlined in the  
9 stewardship plan;

10                (B) include how the program will provide packaging consistent with  
11 the requirements found in the U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous  
12 Materials Regulations and the necessary forms and instructions for the safe  
13 transportation of damaged or defective lithium batteries and lithium-ion  
14 batteries with over 300 watt-hours at no cost to certified solid waste facilities;  
15 and

16                (C) unless otherwise approved by the Secretary, provide throughout  
17 the year not fewer than two collection facilities, at a minimum, in each county  
18 in the State for the collection of damaged and defective lithium batteries and  
19 lithium-ion batteries with over 300 watt-hours.

20           (5) Method of disposition. Each ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan shall  
21 include a description of the method that will be used to responsibly manage

1 discarded ~~primary~~ batteries to ensure that the components of the discarded  
2 ~~primary~~ batteries, to the extent economically and technically feasible, are  
3 recycled.

4 ~~(5)(6)~~ Roles and responsibilities. A ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan  
5 shall list all key participants in the ~~primary~~ battery collection chain, including:

6 (A) the number and name of the collection facilities accepting  
7 ~~primary~~ the batteries to be collected under the plan, including the address and  
8 contact information for each facility;

9 (B) the name and contact information of a transporter or contractor  
10 collecting ~~primary~~ batteries from collection facilities; and

11 (C) the name, address, and contact information of the recycling  
12 facilities that process the collected ~~primary~~ batteries.

13 ~~(6)(7)~~ Education and outreach. A ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan shall  
14 include an education and outreach program. The education and outreach  
15 program may include mass media advertising in radio or television broadcasts  
16 ~~or~~, newspaper publications of general circulation in the State, retail displays,  
17 articles in trade and other journals and publications, social media and internet  
18 sites, and other public educational efforts. The education and outreach  
19 program shall describe the outreach procedures that will be used to provide  
20 notice of the program to businesses, municipalities, certified solid waste

1 management facilities, retailers, wholesalers, and haulers. At a minimum, the  
2 education and outreach program shall notify the public of the following:

3 (A) that there is a free collection program for all ~~primary~~ batteries;

4 and

5 (B) the location of collection points and how to access the collection  
6 program.

7 ~~(7)~~(8) Reimbursement. A ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan shall  
8 include a reimbursement procedure that is consistent with the requirements of  
9 subchapter 4 of this chapter.

10 ~~(8)~~(9) Performance goal; collection rate. A ~~primary~~ battery stewardship  
11 plan shall include a collection rate performance goal for the primary batteries  
12 and rechargeable batteries subject to the plan. The collection rate includes the  
13 estimated total weight of primary batteries and rechargeable batteries that will  
14 be sold or offered for sale in the State by the producer or the producers  
15 participating in the ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan.

16 (10) Safety training. A battery stewardship plan shall describe how it  
17 shall provide safety training for collection locations, including handling  
18 damaged and defective lithium batteries and lithium-ion batteries with over  
19 300 watt-hours.

20 (11) Fair compensation. Each battery stewardship plan shall provide a  
21 description of how municipalities and certified solid waste management



1 facilities acting as battery collection facilities for the program shall be fairly  
2 compensated for labor and material costs associated with collecting, sorting,  
3 storing, and shipping batteries.

4 (c) Implementation.

5 (1) A producer or a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization shall  
6 implement the collection plan not later than six months after the date of a final  
7 decision by the Secretary on the adequacy of the collection plan.

8 (2) A producer or battery stewardship organization shall include  
9 provisions in the plan for the implementation of the program in conjunction  
10 with those retailers, municipalities, and certified solid waste management  
11 facilities acting as collection facilities under a program. No transportation or  
12 recycling cost shall be imposed on retailers, municipalities, or certified solid  
13 waste management facilities acting as collection facilities under a program. A  
14 producer or a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization shall provide retailers,  
15 municipalities, and certified solid waste management facilities acting as  
16 collection facilities products or equipment for setting up a collection point and  
17 for providing for the pickup of collected ~~primary~~ batteries, including arranging  
18 for the management of those ~~primary~~ batteries.

1 § 7585. ANNUAL REPORT; PLAN AUDIT

2 (a) Annual report. ~~On or before March 1, 2017 and annually thereafter~~

3 Annually, a battery producer or a primary battery stewardship organization  
4 shall submit a report to the Secretary that contains the following:

5 (1) the weight of primary covered batteries collected by chemistry by  
6 the producer or the primary battery stewardship organization in the prior  
7 calendar year;

8 (2) ~~the estimated percentage, by weight, of rechargeable batteries~~  
9 ~~collected by the producer or the primary battery stewardship organization in~~  
10 ~~the prior calendar year;~~

11 (3) the percentage of primary covered batteries collected in the prior  
12 calendar year that are from producers who are not participating in any  
13 approved stewardship plan, based on periodic sorting of primary batteries by  
14 the reporting producer;

15 (3) the collection rate achieved in the prior calendar year under the  
16 primary battery stewardship plan, including a report of the estimated total sales  
17 data by weight for primary covered batteries sold in the State for the previous  
18 three calendar years;

19 (4) the locations for all collection points set up by the primary battery  
20 ~~producers covered by the primary~~ battery stewardship plan and contact  
21 information for each location;

1           ~~(6)~~(5) examples and description of educational materials used to  
2           increase collection;

3           ~~(7)~~(6) the manner in which the collected ~~primary~~ covered batteries were  
4           managed;

5           ~~(8)~~(7) any material change to the ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan  
6           approved by the Secretary pursuant to section 7586 of this title; and

7           ~~(9)~~(8) the cost of implementation of the ~~primary~~ battery stewardship  
8           plan, including the costs of collection, recycling, education, and outreach.

9           (b) Plan audit. After five years of implementation of an approved ~~primary~~  
10          battery stewardship plan, a ~~primary~~ covered battery producer or ~~primary~~  
11          battery stewardship organization shall hire an independent third party to  
12          conduct a one-time audit of the ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan and plan  
13          operation. The auditor shall examine the effectiveness of the ~~primary~~ battery  
14          stewardship plan in collecting and recycling ~~primary~~ covered batteries. The  
15          independent auditor shall examine the cost-effectiveness of the plan and  
16          compare it to that of collection plans or programs for ~~primary~~ covered batteries  
17          in other jurisdictions. The independent auditor shall submit the results of the  
18          audit to the Secretary as part of the annual report required under subsection (a)  
19          of this section.

1 § 7586. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES; APPROVAL OF PLANS

2 (a) Approval of plan. Within 90 days after receipt of a proposed ~~primary~~  
3 battery stewardship plan, not including the time required for public comment  
4 under chapter 170 of this title, the Secretary shall determine whether the plan  
5 complies with the requirements of section 7584 of this title. If the Secretary  
6 determines that a plan complies with the requirements of section 7584 of this  
7 title, the Secretary shall notify the applicant of the plan approval in writing. If  
8 the Secretary rejects a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan, the Secretary shall  
9 notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for rejecting the plan. An  
10 applicant whose plan is rejected by the Secretary shall submit a revised plan to  
11 the Secretary within 45 days ~~of following~~ receiving notice of rejection. A  
12 ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan that is not approved or rejected by the  
13 Secretary within 90 days, not including the time required for public comment  
14 under chapter 170 of this title, ~~of following~~ submission by a producer shall be  
15 deemed approved.

16 (b) Plan amendment; changes. Any changes to a proposed ~~primary~~ battery  
17 stewardship plan shall be approved by the Secretary in writing. The Secretary,  
18 in ~~his or her~~ the Secretary's discretion or at the request of a producer, may  
19 require a producer or a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization to amend an  
20 approved plan.

1 (c) Public review. When the Secretary receives a request to approve or  
2 amend a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan under this subchapter, the Secretary  
3 shall proceed in accordance with chapter 170 of this title.

4 (d) [Repealed.]

5 (e) Registrations. The Secretary shall accept, review, and approve or deny  
6 ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization registrations submitted under  
7 section 7583 of this title.

8 (f) Agency website. The Secretary shall maintain a website that includes a  
9 copy of all approved ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plans, the names of  
10 producers with approved plans, participation in approved plans, or other  
11 compliance with this chapter. The website shall list all of an approved primary  
12 battery producer's, rechargeable battery producer's, and battery-containing  
13 product producer's brands covered by a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan filed  
14 with the Secretary. The Secretary shall update information on the website  
15 within 10 days ~~of~~ following receipt of notice of any change to the listed  
16 information. The website shall list all known primary battery producers,  
17 rechargeable battery producers, and battery-containing product producers  
18 exempt from the requirements of this chapter under subsection 7582(c) of this  
19 title.

20 (g) Term of ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan. A ~~primary~~ battery  
21 stewardship plan approved by the Secretary under this section shall have a

1 term not to exceed five years, provided that the ~~primary~~ battery producer or  
2 ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization remains in compliance with the  
3 requirements of this chapter and the terms of the approved plan.

4 § 7587. RETAILER OBLIGATIONS

5 (a) Sale prohibited. Except as set forth in subsection (b) of this section, no  
6 retailer shall sell or offer for sale a ~~primary~~ battery on or after January 1, ~~2016~~  
7 2026 unless the producer of the ~~primary~~ battery is implementing an approved  
8 ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan, is a member of a ~~primary~~ battery  
9 stewardship organization implementing an approved ~~primary~~ battery  
10 stewardship plan, or is exempt from participation in an approved plan, as  
11 determined by review of the producers listed on the Agency website required  
12 in subsection 7586(f) of this title.

13 (b) Inventory exception; expiration or revocation of producer registration.  
14 A retailer shall not be responsible for an unlawful sale of a primary battery,  
15 rechargeable battery, or battery-containing product under this subsection if:

16 (1) the retailer purchased the primary battery weighing 4.4 pounds or  
17 less prior to January 1, 2016 and sells the primary battery on or before January  
18 1, 2017; ~~or~~

19 (2) the retailer purchased the primary battery weighing more than 4.4  
20 pounds, battery-containing product, or rechargeable battery, prior to January 1,

1 2026 and sells the primary battery, battery-containing product, or rechargeable  
2 battery on or before January 1, 2027; or

3 (3) the producer's ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan expired or was  
4 revoked, and the retailer took possession of the in-store inventory of primary  
5 batteries, rechargeable batteries, or battery-containing products prior to the  
6 expiration or revocation of the producer's ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan.

7 (c) Educational material. A producer or ~~primary~~ battery stewardship  
8 organization supplying ~~primary~~ covered batteries to a retailer shall provide the  
9 retailer with educational materials describing collection opportunities for  
10 primary batteries and rechargeable batteries. The retailer shall make the  
11 educational materials available to consumers.

12 Subchapter 3. Registration of Rechargeable Battery Stewardship Organization

13 § 7588. ~~REGISTRATION OF RECHARGEABLE BATTERY~~

14 ~~STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATION~~

15 ~~(a) A rechargeable battery steward or rechargeable battery stewardship~~  
16 ~~organization shall register with the Secretary in order to seek reimbursement~~  
17 ~~under subchapter 4 of this chapter.~~

18 ~~(b) The Secretary shall register a rechargeable battery steward or~~  
19 ~~rechargeable battery stewardship organization upon:~~

20 ~~(1) submission of a registration form provided by the Secretary that~~  
21 ~~includes:~~





1           ~~(A)~~ the producer of the collected primary battery or rechargeable  
2 battery or the ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization representing the  
3 producer of the collected primary battery; or rechargeable battery

4           ~~(B)~~ the ~~rechargeable battery steward responsible for the collected~~  
5 ~~rechargeable batteries or, where the rechargeable battery steward responsible~~  
6 ~~for the collected rechargeable batteries is participating in a rechargeable~~  
7 ~~battery stewardship organization, the stewardship organization.~~

8           (2) Reimbursement may be requested by a collecting primary battery  
9 producer or rechargeable battery producer or ~~primary~~ battery stewardship  
10 organization only after that producer or battery stewardship organization has  
11 achieved the collection rate performance goal approved by the Secretary under  
12 section 7584 of this title.

13           ~~(b) Reimbursement of rechargeable battery stewardship organization. A~~  
14 ~~registered rechargeable battery steward or rechargeable battery stewardship~~  
15 ~~organization shall be entitled to reimbursement from the producer of the~~  
16 ~~collected primary battery or the primary battery stewardship organization~~  
17 ~~representing the producer of the collected primary battery.~~

18           ~~(e)~~ Reimbursable costs. Under this subchapter, reimbursement shall be  
19 allowed only for those costs incurred in collecting the batteries subject to the  
20 reimbursement request. Reimbursable costs include:

1 (1) costs of collection, transport, recycling, and other methods of  
2 disposition identified in a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan approved pursuant  
3 to section 7586 of this title; and

4 (2) reasonable educational, promotional, or administrative costs.

5 § 7590. REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS

6 (a) Reimbursement request.

7 (1) A ~~primary~~ battery producer, ~~primary or~~ battery stewardship  
8 organization, ~~or rechargeable battery stewardship organization~~ that incurs  
9 reimbursable costs under section 7589 of this title shall submit a request to the  
10 producer of the collected ~~primary~~ battery or the ~~primary~~ battery stewardship  
11 organization in which the producer is participating ~~or the rechargeable battery~~  
12 ~~stewardship organization~~ responsible for the collected ~~rechargeable~~ covered  
13 battery.

14 (2) A producer or ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization ~~or~~  
15 ~~rechargeable battery stewardship organization~~ that receives a request for  
16 reimbursement may, prior to payment and within 30 days ~~of~~ following receipt  
17 of the request for reimbursement, request an independent audit of submitted  
18 reimbursement costs.

19 (3) The independent auditor shall be responsible for verifying the  
20 reasonableness of the reimbursement request, including the costs sought for

1 reimbursement, the amount of reimbursement, and the reimbursable costs  
2 assessed by each of the two programs.

3 (4) If the independent audit confirms the reasonableness of the  
4 reimbursement request, the producer, ~~primary or~~ battery stewardship  
5 organization, ~~or rechargeable battery stewardship organization~~ requesting the  
6 audit shall pay the cost of the audit and the amount of the reimbursement  
7 calculated by the independent auditor. If the independent audit indicates the  
8 reimbursement request was not reasonable, the producer or ~~primary~~ battery  
9 stewardship organization that initiated the reimbursement request shall pay the  
10 cost of the audit and the amount of the reimbursement calculated by the  
11 independent auditor.

12 (b) Role of Agency. The Agency shall not be required to provide  
13 assistance or otherwise participate in a reimbursement request, audit, or other  
14 action under this section, unless subject to subpoena before a court of  
15 jurisdiction.

#### 16 Subchapter 5. General Provisions

#### 17 § 7592. CONFIDENTIALITY OF SUBMITTED DATA

18 (a) Confidentiality. Reports and data submitted under this chapter shall be  
19 available for public inspection and copying, provided that:

20 (1) Information protected under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, as  
21 codified under 9 V.S.A. chapter 143, or under the trade secret exemption under

1 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(9) shall be exempt from public inspection and copying under  
2 the Public Records Act.

3 (2) The Secretary may publish information confidential under  
4 subdivision (1) of this subsection in a summary or aggregated form that does  
5 not directly or indirectly identify individual producers, battery stewards,  
6 distributors, or retailers.

7 (b) Omission of trade secret information. The Secretary may require, as a  
8 part of a report submitted under this chapter, that the producer, ~~primary or~~  
9 battery stewardship organization, ~~rechargeable battery steward, or rechargeable~~  
10 ~~battery stewardship organization~~ submit a report that does not contain trade  
11 secret information and is available for public inspection and review.

12 (c) Total weight of batteries. The total weight of batteries collected under  
13 an approved ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan is not confidential business  
14 information under the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, as codified under 9 V.S.A.  
15 chapter 143, and shall be subject to inspection and review under the Public  
16 Records Act, 1 V.S.A chapter 5, subchapter 3.

17 § 7593. ANTITRUST; CONDUCT AUTHORIZED

18 (a) Activity authorized. A producer, group of producers, or ~~primary a~~  
19 battery stewardship organization implementing or participating in an approved  
20 ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan under this chapter for the collection,  
21 transport, processing, and end-of-life management of primary batteries and

1 rechargeable batteries is individually or jointly immune from liability for the  
2 conduct under State laws relating to antitrust, restraint of trade, unfair trade  
3 practices, and other regulation of trade or commerce under 9 V.S.A. chapter  
4 63, subchapter 1, to the extent that the conduct is reasonably necessary to plan,  
5 implement, and comply with the producer's, group of producers', or ~~primary~~  
6 battery stewardship organization's chosen system for managing discarded  
7 primary batteries and rechargeable batteries. This subsection shall also apply  
8 to conduct of a retailer or wholesaler participating in a producer or ~~primary~~  
9 battery stewardship organization's approved ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan  
10 when the conduct is necessary to plan and implement the producer's or  
11 ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organization's organized collection or recycling  
12 system for discarded batteries.

13 (b) Limitations on anti-trust activity. Subsection (a) of this section shall  
14 not apply to an agreement among producers, groups of producers, retailers,  
15 wholesalers, or ~~primary~~ battery stewardship organizations affecting the price of  
16 primary batteries or rechargeable batteries or any agreement restricting the  
17 geographic area in which, or customers to whom, primary batteries or  
18 rechargeable batteries shall be sold.

19 § 7594. ADMINISTRATIVE FEE

20 (a) Fees assessed. A ~~primary~~ battery producer or ~~primary~~ battery  
21 stewardship organization shall pay a fee of \$15,000.00 annually for operation

1 under a ~~primary~~ battery stewardship plan approved by the Secretary under  
2 section 7586 of this title.

3 (b) Disposition of fees. The fees collected under subsection (a) of this  
4 section shall be deposited in the Environmental Permit Fund under 3 V.S.A.  
5 § 2805.

6 § 7595. RULEMAKING; PROCEDURE

7 The Secretary may adopt rules or procedures to implement the requirements  
8 of this chapter.

9 Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 6621a is amended to read:

10 § 6621a. LANDFILL DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

11 (a) In accordance with the following schedule, no person shall knowingly  
12 dispose of the following materials in solid waste or in landfills:

13 (1) Lead-acid batteries, after July 1, 1990.

14 \* \* \*

15 (6) Nickel-cadmium batteries, small sealed lead acid batteries,  
16 nonconsumer mercuric oxide batteries, rechargeable batteries, primary  
17 batteries, and any other battery added by the Secretary by rule.

18 \* \* \*

19 Sec. 3. ANR BATTERY ASSESSMENT

20 (a) On or before July 1, 2026, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall  
21 complete an assessment of the opportunities, challenges, and feasibility of

1 establishing mandatory end-of-life management programs for the following  
2 battery types:

3 (1) batteries used in hybrid and electric vehicles;

4 (2) battery energy storage systems; and

5 (3) batteries that are not easily removable from the products they power.

6 (b) The assessment required by this section shall include:

7 (1) a summary of the work and progress other states have made in  
8 establishing end-of-life management programs for the three battery types listed  
9 under subsection (a) of this section; and

10 (2) policy recommendations on whether mandatory end-of-life  
11 management programs are necessary for the battery types listed under  
12 subsection (a) of this section.

13 (c) The assessment required by this section shall be provided to the House  
14 Committee on Environment and Energy and the Senate Committee on Natural  
15 Resources and Energy.

16 Sec. 4. IMPLEMENTATION

17 (a) The requirements for the sale of batteries under 10 V.S.A. § 7582 shall  
18 apply to primary batteries weighing less than 4.4 pounds beginning on January  
19 1, 2016 and to primary batteries weighing more than 4.4. pounds but less than  
20 25 pounds, rechargeable batteries, and battery-containing products beginning  
21 on January 1, 2026.

1       (b) The requirement under 10 V.S.A. § 7583 for a battery stewardship  
2       organization to register with the Secretary of Natural Resources currently  
3       applies to producers of primary batteries as required beginning on March 1,  
4       2015 and shall also apply to producers of rechargeable batteries and battery-  
5       containing products beginning on March 1, 2025.

6       (c) The requirement under 10 V.S.A. § 7584 for a battery producer to  
7       submit a battery stewardship plan to the Secretary of Natural Resources  
8       currently applies to producers of primary batteries as required beginning on  
9       June 1, 2015 and shall also apply to producers of rechargeable batteries and  
10       battery-containing products beginning on June 1, 2025.

11       (d) The requirement under 10 V.S.A. § 7585 that a battery producer  
12       annually report to the Secretary of Natural Resources currently applies to  
13       producers of primary batteries as required beginning on March 1, 2017 and  
14       shall also apply to producers of rechargeable batteries beginning on March 1,  
15       2027.

16       Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATES

17       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024, except that 10 V.S.A. § 7587  
18       (retail sale obligation) shall take effect on January 1, 2026.