



### House Bill 1233: The Battery Stewardship Act

Pennsylvania is modernizing its battery recycling infrastructure with **House Bill 1233**, which amends Title 27 (Environmental Resources) to establish a comprehensive **Portable Battery Stewardship Program**. This legislation introduces a "Producer Responsibility" model, requiring manufacturers who distribute covered batteries or battery-containing products in the state to participate in and fund a certified stewardship plan. Beginning **January 1, 2027**, producers must join a battery stewardship organization (BSO) to legally sell their products within the Commonwealth.

The primary driver of HB 1233 is the rapid proliferation of **lithium-ion batteries**. While essential for modern electronics and e-mobility, these batteries pose significant "end-of-life" risks, including chemical fires at material recovery facilities (MRFs) and toxic leaching in landfills. The bill specifically addresses these dangers by:

- **Mandating Clear Markings:** Requiring all lithium-ion and covered batteries to be labeled for easy identification and safe handling by consumers and recyclers.
- **Targeting "Medium-Format" Power:** Including specific provisions for larger rechargeable batteries (weighing up to 25 lbs), such as those found in e-bikes and power tools, which have historically lacked a clear recycling pathway.
- **Fire Prevention:** Establishing strict collection and management requirements to keep reactive lithium chemistries out of commingled recycling streams, protecting both workers and infrastructure.

The **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** will oversee the program, ensuring that stewardship organizations meet rigorous performance standards and collection targets. To protect local taxpayers and municipalities, the program is **producer-funded**. BSOs are responsible for covering all costs associated with collection, transportation, processing, and public education. Additionally, the legislation provides antitrust immunity for producers who collaborate to build this necessary statewide recycling network.

## **Support This Vital Legislation**

House Bill 1233 represents a common-sense solution to a growing safety and environmental crisis. By creating a standardized, manufacturer-led recycling system, we can protect Pennsylvania's environment, reduce the risk of facility fires, and reclaim valuable materials for a circular economy.

**We encourage all PROP members and stakeholders to contact their state senators and urge them to support the passage of HB 1233.**