



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 681

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6263

House of Representatives, April 14, 2025

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. PARKER of the 101st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE AND PURCHASE OF GAS-POWERED HAND-HELD OR BACKPACK LEAF BLOWERS BY STATE AGENCIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) On and after September
2 1, 2027, the Departments of Administrative Services, Energy and
3 Environmental Protection and Transportation shall, within available
4 appropriations, purchase, lease or acquire electric hand-held or push
5 lawn mowers, leaf blowers and lawn trimmers for state agencies for
6 landscaping services on state-owned property if: (1) Such machinery is
7 functionally equivalent to any such gas-powered machinery, and (2) the
8 useful life of similar gas-powered machinery owned, leased or acquired
9 by such agencies has expired.

10 (b) On and after September 1, 2029, the Departments of
11 Administrative Services, Energy and Environmental Protection and
12 Transportation shall, within available appropriations, prepare bidding
13 documents for contractors who seek to perform maintenance or

14 landscaping work on state properties in order to require bidders to use
15 electric hand-held or push lawn mowers, leaf blowers and lawn
16 trimmers in performing such work if such machinery is functionally
17 equivalent to any such gas-powered machinery.

18 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
19 said commissioners may make an exception to such purchase, lease and
20 acquisition requirements if fiscal resources or agency operations depend
21 on the utilization of specific equipment, including, but not limited to,
22 the following operations: (1) Abating or preventing damage during a
23 declared emergency or for equipment used by first responders to
24 provide emergency services, (2) conducting fire hazard reduction and
25 post-fire recovery activities, (3) managing riparian, forest or grassland
26 areas, or (4) maintaining public safety.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	New section

ENV Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Administrative Services; Department of Transportation; Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF&TF - Potential Cost	None	None

Note: GF&TF=General Fund & Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The Out Years

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 28 \$	FY 29 \$	FY 30 \$
Department of Administrative Services; Department of Transportation; Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	GF&TF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below	See Below

Note: GF&TF=General Fund & Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

The bill requires various state agencies to begin phasing out the use of certain gas-powered equipment, which results in the following fiscal impact:

Section 1(a) requires certain state agencies to replace gas powered landscaping equipment that is at the end of its useful life with electric

equipment when there is a functionally equivalent option available, beginning on September 1, 2027. This results in a potential cost of less than \$15,000 in FY 28. The cost is associated with the relatively higher price of electrical equipment and any additional support equipment like mobile charging stations. The costs are expected to be mitigated by decreased operating costs of electrical equipment. The net impact of the increases in upfront costs and decreases in operating costs is uncertain.

Sections 1(b) requires certain landscaping contracts on state property to use electrical equipment when functionally equivalent options are available beginning September 1, 2029. This results in a potential cost to the state beginning in FY 30 to the extent landscaping contracts increase as a result of these requirements.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6263*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE AND PURCHASE OF GAS-POWERED HAND-HELD OR BACKPACK LEAF BLOWERS BY STATE AGENCIES.*****SUMMARY**

Beginning September 1, 2027, this bill requires the departments of Administrative Services (DAS), Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and Transportation (DOT), within available appropriations, to start replacing certain gas-powered landscaping equipment with equivalent electric hand-held or push equipment, with certain exceptions for financial or practical reasons.

Beginning September 1, 2029, the bill requires these same agencies, within available appropriations, to prepare bidding documents for contractors that are seeking to do maintenance or landscaping work on state property. The bidding document must require those contractors to use electric hand-held or push lawn mowers, leaf blowers, or lawn trimmers if they are functionally equivalent to their gas counterparts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT

Under the bill, DAS, DEEP, and DOT must buy, lease, or acquire electric hand-held or push lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and lawn trimmers for state agencies for landscaping services on state property if:

1. they are functionally equivalent to gas-powered machines; and
2. similar gas-powered machinery owned, leased, or acquired by the agency has reached the end of its useful life.

The departments may make exceptions for specific machinery if there

are financial or practical reasons to use gas-powered equipment including:

1. abating, or preventing, damage during a declared emergency or for equipment used by first responders to provide emergency services;
2. conducting fire hazard reduction and post-fire recovery activities;
3. managing riparian, forest, or grassland areas; or
4. maintaining public safety.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 23 Nay 10 (03/24/2025)