

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5019
AN ACT ESTABLISHING EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR
Title: CONSUMER BATTERIES.
Vote Date: 2/28/2025
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 2/19/2025
File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL: Environment Committee

Co-Sponsors:

Rep. Joseph P. Gresko, 121st Dist.
Rep. Hector Arzeno, 151st Dist.
Rep. Jaime S. Foster, 57th Dist.
Rep. Jill Barry, 31st Dist.

Rep. Geraldo C. Reyes, 75th Dist.
Rep. Marcus Brown, 127th Dist.
Rep. Steven Winter, 93rd Dis.

REASONS FOR BILL

To ensure the proper recycling and end-of life management of used batteries because they release toxic materials into the environment and present safety concerns to workers at solid waste management facilities.

Substitute Language LCO 5588

Changes the Effective date to October 1, 2025

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner, CT Department of Energy & Environment

DEEP supports the concept of this bill but suggest changes in the language to better align the implementation, administration, and enforcement requirements with existing Connecticut EPR legislation. This bill as drafted does not use the same date for program implementation and plan submittal referring to solid waste landfill facilities or incinerators and requirements that apply to solid waste district.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Susan E. Bernard, VP, Government Relations, Battery Council International

The Battery Council International is the leading trade association for the battery industry representing over 125 members consisting of manufacturers, recyclers, and suppliers across North America. Their members produce 98% of U.S. lead batteries. They support the collection and recycling of batteries but with minor changes, including adding definition for "vehicle" as defined in the state's Code, allowing for BSO's to submit plans to collect either small OR medium format batteries, rather than small and medium format batteries (especially given the requirement for medium format batteries to have specific collection points at HHW facilities).

Scott Cassel, Chief Executive Officer, Product Stewardship Institute

The Product Stewardship Institute supports the sustainable funding for safe collection and recycling processes that will reduce the incidence of fires and benefit business and municipal solid waste management facilities. Batteries contain valuable materials such as steel, manganese, and zinc that are mined using energy-intensive processes that emit greenhouse gases. They also have recommendations that would strengthen HB 5019.

Lewis Dubuque, Vice President, National Waste & Recycling Association

The National Waste & Recycling Association believes HB 5019 is an important first step in battery reclamation, but we need a comprehensive approach that includes all problematic battery types and their various safety risks, and they believe this legislation might fall short of mitigating the dangers posed by lithium-ion and other hazardous batteries.

The following Organizations and Associations Support HB 5019 to establish an extended producer responsibility program for consumer batteries sold and distributed in the State of Connecticut:

Betsy Gara, Executive Director, COST

Samuel Gold, Executive Director, River COG

Marc Gonzalez, Program Coordinator, Conservation Law Foundation

Jennifer Jones, Executive Director, Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority

Amanda E. Kennedy, Executive Director, Southeastern CT Council of Governments

George Kerchner, Executive Director, The Rechargeable Battery Association

Juilanna Laure, Organizer, Sierra Club

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

John Blair, President, The Motor Transportation Association of CT

The Motor Transportation Association submitted testimony in Opposition to HB 5019 because of the negative and direct impact on the MTAC members companies. Their members for decades have safely and effectively handled batteries. They believe the best approach is to expand and support market-driven collection pathways already operating effectively. The material forfeiture provision would severely undermine the work of independent recyclers by requiring them to surrender collected batteries. It will disincentivize further innovation and competition.

Daniel C. Zotos, Senior Manager of Public Affairs, Redwood Materials

Redwood Materials support the intent of HB 5019 but as drafted the bill risks effective, market-driven solutions by monopolizing battery collection through third-party entities that do not actually recycle the materials they receive. They are advocating for a stewardship model that upholds the proposed collection framework yet integrates and strengthens both Connecticut recyclers and America's domestic battery recycling industry.

Reported by: Judith Ganswindt

Date: March 19, 2025