

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
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WAYS AND MEANS

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To: Natural Resources Subcommittee
From: April McDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office
Date: February 23, 2026
Subject: HB 4144 – Relating to batteries
Work Session Recommendations

HB 4144 establishes a statewide battery producer responsibility program for producers of portable and medium format batteries and battery-containing products. Producers must join a producer responsibility organization (PRO) and submit plans detailing the responsible management of covered batteries, as defined by the measure, to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for approval. DEQ is directed to develop rules and administer the program, review and evaluate PRO plans, enforce compliance, and approve program changes.

The Environmental Quality Commission is directed to set administrative fees by rule, sufficient to cover program costs, and DEQ is directed to deposit all program revenue into the newly established Battery Producer Responsibility Fund. Initial program costs will be paid for by existing Land Quality division balances and then repaid through annual program fee revenue.

The measure requires DEQ to evaluate related studies and assessments, and report findings and recommendations to the legislature by May 30, 2028.

The proposed –1 amendment provides DEQ with an increase of \$142,317 in Other Funds expenditure limitation to establish and support a permanent full-time Program Analyst 3 (0.50 FTE) for the rulemaking, program development, ongoing oversight, research, and reporting.

Amendment

LFO recommends adoption of the –1 amendment which provides an increase of \$142,317 in Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality division, to carry out the provisions of the measure.

MOTION: I move adoption of the –1 amendment to HB 4144. *(vote)*

Final Subcommittee Action

LFO recommends that HB 4144, as amended by the –1 amendment, be moved to the Ways and Means Full Committee.

MOTION: I move HB 4144, as amended, to the Full Committee with a do pass recommendation. *(vote)*

Carriers

Full Committee: _____

House Floor: _____

Senate Floor: _____