

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 4144

Relating to batteries

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Levy

HB 4144 requires producers of certain batteries or battery-containing products to join a battery producer responsibility organization and implement a program to support and promote battery collection and recycling.

The Department of Environmental Quality is directed to develop rules, administer the program, evaluate and approve producer responsibility program plans, and enforce compliance. Fees will be set in rule and sufficient to cover program costs, and revenue will be deposited into the newly established Battery Producer Responsibility Fund.

The measure also requires the agency to evaluate related studies and programs in other states and report to the Legislature by May 30, 2028. The amendment provides the agency with an increase of \$142,317 in Other Funds expenditure limitation to establish a permanent position for rulemaking, program development, ongoing oversight, research, and reporting.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that HB 4144 be amended by the –1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.