

SUPPORT HB 1251

Topic: Waste

Bill Patron: Delegate Glass

OVERVIEW:

HB 1251 requires a manufacturer of digital electronic consumer products to make available to owners of such equipment and to independent repair providers, on fair and reasonable terms, documentation, parts, and tools for purposes of diagnosis, maintenance, or repair.

REASONS TO SUPPORT:

- Consumers should be able to repair their electronic devices without relying on the manufacturer.
- Electronic devices these days are increasingly designed with short lifespans and are difficult, if not impossible, to repair
- Electronic waste is the fastest growing waste stream in the country and one of the most toxic
- Virginia residents dispose of some 10,000 cell phones each day. Junked electronics are often shredded, creating toxic pollution.
- If Americans held on to our phones one year longer on average, it would have the climate benefits equivalent to taking 636,000 cars off the road.
- Many companies do not make parts, diagrams, and specs available to the public or to independent repair stores so you are entirely reliant on manufacturers to repair your stuff
- Some companies (like apple, HP, etc) can remotely shut down a device if you try to fix or replace parts with ones that are not their own
- So we as consumers are often forced to just buy new products rather than extend the life of our current ones which is wasteful, expensive, and bad for our environment
- When consumers own a cell phone or computers, they should be allowed to fix these products themselves or by using a local repair shop
- HB 1251 would reduce e-waste and give local businesses the tools and information to simply fix common everyday products



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