

By Representative Fitzgibbon

**E2SSB 5144** - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Appropriations

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. The legislature finds that:

4 (1) It is in the public interest of the citizens of Washington to  
5 encourage the recovery and reuse of materials, such as metals, that  
6 replace the output of mining and other extractive industries.

7 (2) Without a dedicated battery stewardship program, battery user  
8 confusion regarding proper disposal options will continue to persist.

9 (3) Ensuring the proper handling, recycling, and end-of-life  
10 management of used batteries prevents the release of toxic materials  
11 into the environment and removes materials from the waste stream  
12 that, if mishandled, may present safety concerns to workers, such as  
13 by igniting fires at solid waste handling facilities. For this  
14 reason, batteries should not be placed into commingled recycling  
15 containers or disposed of via traditional garbage collection  
16 containers.

17 (4) Jurisdictions around the world have successfully implemented  
18 battery stewardship laws that have helped address the challenges  
19 posed by the end-of-life management of batteries. Because it is  
20 difficult for customers to differentiate between types and  
21 chemistries of batteries, it is the best practice for battery  
22 stewardship programs to collect all battery types and chemistries.  
23 Furthermore, it is appropriate for larger batteries used in emerging  
24 market sectors such as electric vehicles, solar power arrays, and  
25 data centers, to be managed to ensure environmentally positive  
26 outcomes similar to those achieved by a battery stewardship program,  
27 both because of the potential economic value of large batteries used  
28 for these purposes and the anticipated profusion of these larger  
29 batteries as these market sectors mature.

1        NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 2.**        DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this  
2 section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly  
3 requires otherwise.

4        (1) (a) "Battery-containing product" means a product that contains  
5 or is packaged with rechargeable or primary batteries that are  
6 covered batteries.

7        (b) A "battery-containing product" does not include a covered  
8 electronic product under an approved plan implemented under chapter  
9 70A.500 RCW.

10       (2) "Battery management hierarchy" means a management system of  
11 covered batteries prioritized in descending order as follows:

12       (a) Waste prevention and reduction;

13       (b) Reuse, when reuse is appropriate;

14       (c) Recycling, as defined in this chapter; and

15       (d) Other means of end-of-life management, which may only be  
16 utilized after demonstrating to the department that it is not  
17 feasible to manage the batteries under the higher priority options in  
18 (a) through (c) of this subsection.

19       (3) "Battery stewardship organization" means a producer that  
20 directly implements a battery stewardship plan required under this  
21 chapter or a nonprofit organization designated by a producer or group  
22 of producers to implement a battery stewardship plan required under  
23 this chapter.

24       (4) "Collection rate" means a percentage, by weight, that a  
25 battery stewardship organization collects that is calculated by  
26 dividing the total weight of primary and rechargeable batteries  
27 collected during the previous calendar year by the average annual  
28 weight of primary and rechargeable batteries that were estimated to  
29 have been sold in the state by all producers participating in an  
30 approved battery stewardship plan during the previous three calendar  
31 years.

32       (5) (a) "Covered battery" means a portable battery or, beginning  
33 January 1, 2029, a medium format battery.

34       (b) "Covered battery" does not include:

35       (i) A battery contained within a medical device, as specified in  
36 Title 21 U.S.C. Sec. 321(h) as it existed as of the effective date of  
37 this section, that is not designed and marketed for sale or resale  
38 principally to consumers for personal use;

39       (ii) A battery that contains an electrolyte as a free liquid;

40       (iii) A lead acid battery weighing greater than 11 pounds;

1 (iv) A battery subject to the provisions of RCW 70A.205.505  
2 through 70A.205.530; and

3 (v) A battery in a battery-containing product that is not  
4 intended or designed to be easily removable from the battery-  
5 containing product.

6 (6) "Department" means the department of ecology.

7 (7) "Easily removable" means designed by the manufacturer to be  
8 removable by the user of the product with no more than commonly used  
9 household tools.

10 (8) "Environmentally sound management practices" means practices  
11 that: (a) Comply with all applicable laws and rules to protect  
12 workers, public health, and the environment; (b) provide for adequate  
13 recordkeeping, tracking, and documenting of the fate of materials  
14 within the state and beyond; and (c) include comprehensive liability  
15 coverage for the battery stewardship organization, including  
16 environmental liability coverage that is commercially practicable.

17 (9) "Final disposition" means the final processing of a collected  
18 battery to produce usable end products, at the point where the  
19 battery has been reduced to its constituent parts, reusable portions  
20 made available for use, and any residues handled as wastes in  
21 accordance with applicable law.

22 (10) "Large format battery" means:

23 (a) A rechargeable battery that weighs more than 25 pounds or has  
24 a rating of more than 2,000 watt-hours; or

25 (b) A primary battery that weighs more than 25 pounds.

26 (11) "Medium format battery" means the following primary or  
27 rechargeable covered batteries:

28 (a) For rechargeable batteries, a battery weighing more than 11  
29 pounds or has a rating of more than 300 watt-hours, or both, and no  
30 more than 25 pounds and has a rating of no more than 2,000 watt-  
31 hours;

32 (b) For primary batteries, a battery weighing more than 4.4  
33 pounds but not more than 25 pounds.

34 (12) "Portable battery" means the following primary or  
35 rechargeable covered batteries:

36 (a) For rechargeable batteries, a battery weighing no more than  
37 11 pounds and has a rating of no more than 300 watt-hours;

38 (b) For primary batteries, a battery weighing no more than 4.4  
39 pounds.

1 (13) "Primary battery" means a battery that is not capable of  
2 being recharged.

3 (14)(a) "Producer" means the following person responsible for  
4 compliance with requirements under this chapter for a covered battery  
5 or battery-containing product sold, offered for sale, or distributed  
6 in or into this state:

7 (i) For covered batteries:

8 (A) If the battery is sold under the brand of the battery  
9 manufacturer, the producer is the person that manufactures the  
10 battery;

11 (B) If the battery is sold under a retail brand or under a brand  
12 owned by a person other than the manufacturer, the producer is the  
13 brand owner;

14 (C) If there is no person to which (a)(i)(A) or (B) of this  
15 subsection applies, the producer is the person that is the licensee  
16 of a brand or trademark under which the battery is used in a  
17 commercial enterprise, sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or  
18 into this state, whether or not the trademark is registered in this  
19 state;

20 (D) If there is no person described in (a)(i)(A) through (C) of  
21 this subsection within the United States, the producer is the person  
22 who is the importer of record for the battery into the United States  
23 for use in a commercial enterprise that sells, offers for sale, or  
24 distributes the battery in this state;

25 (E) If there is no person described in (a)(i)(A) through (D) of  
26 this subsection with a commercial presence within the state, the  
27 producer is the person who first sells, offers for sale, or  
28 distributes the battery in or into this state.

29 (ii) For covered battery-containing products:

30 (A) If the battery-containing product is sold under the brand of  
31 the product manufacturer, the producer is the person that  
32 manufactures the product;

33 (B) If the battery-containing product is sold under a retail  
34 brand or under a brand owned by a person other than the manufacturer,  
35 the producer is the brand owner;

36 (C) If there is no person to which (a)(ii)(A) or (B) of this  
37 subsection applies, the producer is the person that is the licensee  
38 of a brand or trademark under which the product is used in a  
39 commercial enterprise, sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or

1 into this state, whether or not the trademark is registered in this  
2 state;

3 (D) If there is no person described in (a)(ii)(A) through (C) of  
4 this subsection within the United States, the producer is the person  
5 who is the importer of record for the product into the United States  
6 for use in a commercial enterprise that sells, offers for sale, or  
7 distributes the product in this state;

8 (E) If there is no person described in (a)(ii)(A) through (D) of  
9 this subsection with a commercial presence within the state, the  
10 producer is the person who first sells, offers for sale, or  
11 distributes the product in or into this state;

12 (F) A producer does not include any person who only manufactures,  
13 sells, offers for sale, distributes, or imports into the state a  
14 battery-containing product if the only batteries used by the battery-  
15 containing product are supplied by a producer that has joined a  
16 registered battery stewardship organization as the producer for that  
17 covered battery under this chapter. Such a producer of covered  
18 batteries that are included in a battery-containing product must  
19 provide written certification of that membership to both the producer  
20 of the covered battery-containing product and the battery stewardship  
21 organization of which the battery producer is a member.

22 (b) A person is the "producer" of a covered battery or covered  
23 battery-containing product sold, offered for sale, or distributed in  
24 or into this state, as defined in (a) of this subsection, except  
25 where another party has contractually accepted responsibility as a  
26 responsible producer and has joined a registered battery stewardship  
27 organization as the producer for that covered battery or covered  
28 battery-containing product under this chapter.

29 (15) "Program" means a program implemented by a battery  
30 stewardship organization consistent with an approved battery  
31 stewardship plan.

32 (16) "Rechargeable battery" means a battery that contains one or  
33 more voltaic or galvanic cells, electrically connected to produce  
34 electric energy, designed to be recharged.

35 (17) "Recycling" means transforming or remanufacturing waste  
36 materials into usable or marketable materials for use other than:

- 37 (a) Combustion;
- 38 (b) Incineration;
- 39 (c) Energy generation;
- 40 (d) Fuel production; or

1 (e) Beneficial reuse in the construction and operation of a solid  
2 waste landfill, including use of alternative daily cover.

3 (18) "Recycling efficiency rate" means the ratio of the weight of  
4 covered battery components and materials recycled by a program  
5 operator from covered batteries to the weight of those covered  
6 batteries collected by the program operator.

7 (19) "Retailer" means a person who sells covered batteries or  
8 battery-containing products in or into this state or offers or  
9 otherwise makes available covered batteries or battery-containing  
10 products to a customer, including other businesses, for use by the  
11 customer in this state.

12 (20) "Urban area" means an area delineated by the United States  
13 census bureau, based on a minimum threshold of 2,000 housing units or  
14 5,000 people, as of January 1, 2023.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** REQUIREMENT THAT PRODUCERS IMPLEMENT A  
16 STEWARDSHIP PLAN. Beginning January 1, 2027:

17 (1) Each producer selling, making available for sale, or  
18 distributing covered batteries or battery-containing products in or  
19 into the state of Washington shall participate in an approved  
20 Washington state battery stewardship plan through participation in  
21 and appropriate funding of a battery stewardship organization; and

22 (2) A producer that does not participate in a battery stewardship  
23 organization and battery stewardship plan may not sell covered  
24 batteries or battery-containing products covered by this chapter in  
25 or into Washington.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** ROLE OF RETAILERS. (1) Beginning July 1,  
27 2027, for portable batteries, and July 1, 2029, for medium format  
28 batteries, a retailer may not sell, offer for sale, distribute, or  
29 otherwise make available for sale a covered battery or battery-  
30 containing product unless the producer of the covered battery or  
31 battery-containing product certifies to the retailer that the  
32 producer participates in a battery stewardship organization whose  
33 plan has been approved by the department.

34 (2) A retailer is in compliance with the requirements of  
35 subsection (1) of this section and is not subject to penalties under  
36 section 12 of this act as long as the website made available by the  
37 department under section 11 of this act lists, as of the date a  
38 product is made available for retail sale, a producer or brand of

1 covered battery or battery-containing product sold by the retailer as  
2 being a participant in an approved plan or the implementer of an  
3 approved plan.

4 (3) Retailers of covered batteries or battery-containing products  
5 are not required to make retail locations available to serve as  
6 collection sites for a stewardship program operated by a battery  
7 stewardship organization. Retailers that serve as a collection site  
8 must comply with the requirements for collection sites, consistent  
9 with section 8 of this act.

10 (4) A retailer may not sell, offer for sale, distribute, or  
11 otherwise make available for sale covered batteries, unless those  
12 batteries are marked consistent with the requirements of section 14  
13 of this act. A producer of a battery-containing product containing a  
14 covered battery must certify to the retailers of their product that  
15 the battery contained in the battery-containing product is marked  
16 consistent with the requirements of section 14 of this act. A  
17 retailer may rely on this certification for purposes of compliance  
18 under this subsection.

19 (5) A retailer selling or offering covered batteries or battery-  
20 containing products for sale in Washington may provide information,  
21 provided to the retailer by the battery stewardship organization,  
22 regarding available end-of-life management options for covered  
23 batteries collected by the battery stewardship organization. The  
24 information that a battery stewardship organization must make  
25 available to retailers for voluntary use by retailers must include,  
26 but is not limited to, in-store signage, written materials, and other  
27 promotional materials that retailers may use to inform customers of  
28 the available end-of-life management options for covered batteries  
29 collected by the battery stewardship organization.

30 (6) Retailers, producers, or battery stewardship organizations  
31 may not charge a specific point-of-sale fee to consumers to cover the  
32 administrative or operational costs of the battery stewardship  
33 organization or the battery stewardship program.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** STEWARDSHIP PLAN COMPONENTS. (1) By July  
35 1, 2026, or within six months of the adoption of rules under section  
36 11 of this act, whichever comes later, each battery stewardship  
37 organization must submit a plan for covered portable batteries to the  
38 department for approval. Within 24 months of the date of the initial  
39 adoption of rules under this chapter by the department, each battery

1 stewardship organization must submit a plan for covered medium format  
2 batteries to the department for approval. A battery stewardship  
3 organization may submit a plan at any time to the department for  
4 review and approval. The department must review and may approve a  
5 plan based on whether it contains and adequately addresses the  
6 following components:

7 (a) Lists and provides contact information for each producer,  
8 battery brand, and battery-containing product brand covered in the  
9 plan;

10 (b) Proposes performance goals, consistent with section 6 of this  
11 act, including establishing performance goals for each of the next  
12 three upcoming calendar years of program implementation;

13 (c) Describes how the battery stewardship organization will make  
14 retailers aware of their obligation to sell only covered batteries  
15 and battery-containing products of producers participating in an  
16 approved plan;

17 (d) Describes the education and communications strategy being  
18 implemented to effectively promote participation in the approved  
19 covered battery stewardship program and provide the information  
20 necessary for effective participation of consumers, retailers, and  
21 others;

22 (e) Describes how the battery stewardship organization will make  
23 available to retailers, for voluntary use, in-store signage, written  
24 materials, and other promotional materials that retailers may use to  
25 inform customers of the available end-of-life management options for  
26 covered batteries collected by the battery stewardship organization;

27 (f) Lists promotional activities to be undertaken, and the  
28 identification of consumer awareness goals and strategies that the  
29 program will employ to achieve these goals after the program begins  
30 to be implemented;

31 (g) Includes collection site safety training procedures related  
32 to covered battery collection activities at collection sites,  
33 including appropriate protocols to reduce risks of spills or fires  
34 and response protocols in the event of a spill or fire, and a  
35 protocol for safe management of damaged batteries that are returned  
36 to collection sites;

37 (h) Describes the method to establish and administer a means for  
38 fully funding the program in a manner that equitably distributes the  
39 program's costs among the producers that are part of the battery  
40 stewardship organization. For producers that elect to meet the



1 requirements of this chapter individually, without joining a battery  
2 stewardship organization, the plan must describe the proposed method  
3 to establish and administer a means for fully funding the program;

4 (i) Describes the financing methods used to implement the plan,  
5 consistent with section 7 of this act, including how producer fees  
6 and fee modulation will incorporate design for recycling and resource  
7 conservation as objectives, and a template reimbursement agreement,  
8 developed in consultation with local governments and other program  
9 stakeholders;

10 (j) Describes how the program will collect all covered battery  
11 chemistries and brands on a free, continuous, convenient, visible,  
12 and accessible basis, and consistent with the requirements of section  
13 8 of this act, including a description of how the statewide  
14 convenience standard will be met and a list of collection sites,  
15 including the address and latitude and longitude of collection sites;

16 (k) Describes the criteria to be used in the program to determine  
17 whether an entity may serve as a collection site for discarded  
18 batteries under the program;

19 (l) Establishes collection goals for each of the first three  
20 years of implementation of the battery stewardship plan that are  
21 based on the estimated total weight of primary and rechargeable  
22 covered batteries that have been sold in the state in the previous  
23 three calendar years by the producers participating in the battery  
24 stewardship plan;

25 (m) Identifies proposed brokers, transporters, processors, and  
26 facilities to be used by the program for the final disposition of  
27 batteries and how collected batteries will be managed in:

28 (i) An environmentally sound and socially just manner at  
29 facilities operating with human health and environmental protection  
30 standards that are broadly equivalent to or better than those  
31 required in the United States and other countries that are members of  
32 the battery stewardship organization for economic cooperation and  
33 development; and

34 (ii) A manner consistent with the battery management hierarchy,  
35 including how each proposed facility used for the final disposition  
36 of batteries will recycle or otherwise manage batteries;

37 (n) Details how the program will achieve a recycling efficiency  
38 rate, calculated consistent with section 10 of this act, of at least  
39 60 percent for rechargeable batteries and at least 70 percent for  
40 primary batteries;

1 (o) Proposes goals for increasing public awareness of the  
2 program, including subgoals applicable to public awareness of the  
3 program in vulnerable populations and overburdened communities  
4 identified by the department under chapter 70A.02 RCW, and describes  
5 how the public education and outreach components of the program under  
6 section 9 of this act will be implemented; and

7 (p) Specifies procedures to be employed by a local government  
8 seeking to coordinate with a battery stewardship organization  
9 pursuant to section 8(4)(c) of this act.

10 (2) If required by the department, a battery stewardship  
11 organization must submit a new plan to the department for approval:

12 (a) If there are significant changes to the methods of  
13 collection, transport, or end-of-life management of covered batteries  
14 under section 8 of this act that are not provided for in the plan.  
15 The department may, by rule, identify the types of significant  
16 changes that require a new plan to be submitted to the department for  
17 approval. For purposes of this subsection, adding or removing a  
18 processor or transporter under the plan is not considered a  
19 significant change that requires a plan resubmittal;

20 (b) To address the novel inclusion of medium format batteries or  
21 large format batteries as covered batteries under the plan; and

22 (c) No less than every five years.

23 (3) If required by the department, a battery stewardship  
24 organization must provide plan amendments to the department for  
25 approval:

26 (a) When proposing changes to the performance goals under section  
27 6 of this act based on the up-to-date experience of the program;

28 (b) When there is a change to the method of financing plan  
29 implementation under section 7 of this act. This does not include  
30 changes to the fees or fee structure established in the plan; or

31 (c) When adding or removing a processor or transporter, as part  
32 of a quarterly update submitted to the department.

33 (4) As part of a quarterly update, a battery stewardship  
34 organization must notify the department after a producer begins or  
35 ceases to participate in a battery stewardship organization. The  
36 quarterly update submitted to the department must also include a  
37 current list of the producers and brands participating in the plan.

38 (5) No earlier than five years after the initial approval of a  
39 plan, the department may require a battery stewardship organization  
40 to submit a revised plan, which may include improvements to the

1 collection site network or increased expenditures dedicated to  
2 education and outreach if the approved plan has not met the  
3 performance goals under section 6 of this act.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM COMPONENTS—PERFORMANCE  
5 GOALS. (1) Each battery stewardship plan must include performance  
6 goals that measure, on an annual basis, the achievements of the  
7 program. Performance goals must take into consideration technical  
8 feasibility and economic practicality in achieving continuous,  
9 meaningful progress in improving:

- 10 (a) The rate of battery collection for recycling in Washington;
  - 11 (b) The recycling efficiency of the program; and
  - 12 (c) Public awareness of the program.
- 13 (2) The performance goals established in each battery stewardship  
14 plan must include, but are not limited to:
- 15 (a) Target collection rates;
  - 16 (b) Target recycling efficiency rates of at least 60 percent for  
17 rechargeable batteries and at least 70 percent for primary batteries;  
18 and
  - 19 (c) Goals for public awareness, convenience, and accessibility  
20 that meet or exceed the minimum requirements established in section 8  
21 of this act.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM COMPONENTS—FUNDING.  
23 (1) Each battery stewardship organization must ensure adequate  
24 funding is available to fully implement approved battery stewardship  
25 plans, including the implementation of aspects of the plan  
26 addressing:

- 27 (a) Battery collection, transporting, and processing;
  - 28 (b) Education and outreach;
  - 29 (c) Program evaluation; and
  - 30 (d) Payment of the administrative fees to the department under  
31 section 11 of this act.
- 32 (2) A battery stewardship organization implementing a battery  
33 stewardship plan on behalf of producers must develop, and continually  
34 improve over the years of program implementation, a system to collect  
35 charges from participating producers to cover the costs of plan  
36 implementation in an environmentally sound and socially just manner  
37 that encourages the use of design attributes that reduce the  
38 environmental impacts of covered batteries, such as through the use

1 of eco-modulated fees. Examples of fee structures that meet the  
2 requirements of this subsection include using eco-modulated fees to:

3 (a) Encourage designs intended to facilitate reuse and recycling;

4 (b) Encourage the use of recycled content;

5 (c) Discourage the use of problematic materials that increase  
6 system costs of managing covered batteries; and

7 (d) Encourage other design attributes that reduce the  
8 environmental impacts of covered batteries.

9 (3)(a) Except for costs incurred by a local government or local  
10 government facility exercising the authority specified in section  
11 8(4)(c) of this act, each battery stewardship organization is  
12 responsible for all costs of participating covered battery  
13 collection, transportation, processing, education, administration,  
14 agency reimbursement, recycling, and end-of-life management in  
15 accordance with the battery management hierarchy and environmentally  
16 sound management practices.

17 (b) Each battery stewardship organization must meet the  
18 collection goals as specified in section 5 of this act.

19 (c) A battery stewardship organization is not authorized to  
20 reduce or cease collection, education and outreach, or other  
21 activities implemented under an approved plan based on achievement of  
22 program performance goals.

23 (4)(a) Except for costs incurred by a local government or local  
24 government facility exercising the authority granted by section  
25 8(4)(c) of this act, a battery stewardship organization must  
26 reimburse local governments for demonstrable costs, as defined by  
27 rules adopted by the department, incurred as a result of a local  
28 government facility or solid waste handling facility serving as a  
29 collection site for a program including, but not limited to,  
30 associated labor costs and other costs associated with accessibility  
31 and collection site standards such as storage.

32 (b) Except as to the costs of containers and other materials and  
33 services requirements addressed by a local government or local  
34 government facility exercising the authority granted by section  
35 8(4)(c) of this act, a battery stewardship organization shall at a  
36 minimum provide collection sites with appropriate containers for  
37 covered batteries subject to its program, training, signage, safety  
38 guidance, and educational materials, at no cost to the collection  
39 sites.

1 (c) A battery stewardship organization must include in its  
2 battery stewardship plan a template of the service agreement and any  
3 other forms, contracts, or other documents for use in distribution of  
4 reimbursements. The service agreement template must be developed with  
5 local government input. The entities seeking or receiving  
6 reimbursement from the battery stewardship organization are not  
7 required to use the template agreement included in the program plan  
8 and are not limited to the terms of the template agreement included  
9 in the program plan.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM COMPONENTS—COLLECTION  
11 AND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS. (1) Battery stewardship organizations  
12 implementing a battery stewardship plan must provide for the  
13 collection of all covered batteries, including all chemistries and  
14 brands of covered batteries, on a free, continuous, convenient,  
15 visible, and accessible basis to any person, business, government  
16 agency, or nonprofit organization. Except as provided in subsection  
17 (2)(b) of this section, each battery stewardship plan must allow any  
18 person, business, government agency, or nonprofit organization to  
19 discard each chemistry and brand of covered battery at each  
20 collection site that counts towards the satisfaction of the  
21 collection site criteria in subsection (3) of this section.

22 (2)(a) Except for local government collection described in  
23 subsection (4)(c) of this section, for each collection site utilized  
24 by the program, each battery stewardship organization must provide  
25 suitable collection containers for covered batteries that are  
26 segregated from other solid waste or make mutually agreeable  
27 alternative arrangements for the collection of batteries at the site.  
28 The location of collection containers at each collection site used by  
29 the program must be within view of a responsible person and must be  
30 accompanied by signage made available to the collection site by the  
31 battery stewardship organization that informs customers regarding the  
32 end-of-life management options for batteries provided by the  
33 collection site under this chapter. Each collection site must adhere  
34 to the operations manual and other safety information provided to the  
35 collection site by the battery stewardship organization.

36 (b) Medium format batteries may only be collected at household  
37 hazardous waste collection sites or other sites that are staffed by  
38 persons who are certified to handle and ship hazardous materials  
39 under federal regulations adopted by the United States department of

1 transportation pipeline and hazardous materials safety  
2 administration.

3 (c) (i) Damaged and defective batteries are intended to be  
4 collected at collection sites staffed by persons trained to handle  
5 and ship those batteries.

6 (ii) Each battery stewardship organization must provide for  
7 collection of damaged and defective batteries in each county of the  
8 state, either through collection sites or collection events with  
9 qualified staff as specified in (c) (i) of this subsection. Collection  
10 events should be provided periodically throughout the year where  
11 practicable, but must be provided at least once per year at a  
12 minimum, in each county in which there are not permanent collection  
13 sites providing for the collection of damaged and defective  
14 batteries.

15 (iii) As used in this subsection, "damaged and defective  
16 batteries" means batteries that have been damaged or identified by  
17 the manufacturer as being defective for safety reasons, that have the  
18 potential of producing a dangerous evolution of heat, fire, or short  
19 circuit, as referred to in 49 C.F.R. Sec. 173.185(f) as of January 1,  
20 2023, or as updated by the department by rule to maintain consistency  
21 with federal standards.

22 (3) (a) Each battery stewardship organization implementing a  
23 battery stewardship plan shall ensure statewide collection  
24 opportunities for all covered batteries. Battery stewardship  
25 organizations shall coordinate activities with other program  
26 operators, including covered battery collection and recycle programs  
27 and electronic waste recyclers, with regard to the proper management  
28 or recycling of collected covered batteries, for purposes of  
29 providing the efficient delivery of services and avoiding unnecessary  
30 duplication of effort and expense. Statewide collection opportunities  
31 must be determined by geographic information modeling that considers  
32 permanent collection sites. A program may rely, in part, on  
33 collection events to supplement the permanent collection services  
34 required in (a) and (b) of this subsection. However, only permanent  
35 collection services specified in (a) and (b) of this subsection  
36 qualify towards the satisfaction of the requirements of this  
37 subsection.

38 (b) For portable batteries, each battery stewardship organization  
39 must provide statewide collection opportunities that include, but are  
40 not limited to, the provision of:

1 (i) At least one permanent collection site for portable batteries  
2 within a 15 mile radius for at least 95 percent of Washington  
3 residents;

4 (ii) The establishment of collection sites that are accessible  
5 and convenient to overburdened communities identified by the  
6 department under chapter 70A.02 RCW, in an amount that is roughly  
7 proportional to the number and population of overburdened communities  
8 identified by the department under chapter 70A.02 RCW relative to the  
9 population or size of the state as a whole;

10 (iii) At least one permanent collection site for portable  
11 batteries in addition to those required in (b)(i) of this subsection  
12 for every 30,000 residents of each urban area in this state. For the  
13 purposes of compliance with this subsection (3)(b)(iii), a battery  
14 stewardship organization and the department may rely upon new or  
15 updated designations of urban locations by the United States census  
16 bureau that are determined by the department to be similar to the  
17 definition of urban areas in section 2 of this act;

18 (iv) Collection opportunities for portable batteries at special  
19 locations where batteries are often spent and replaced, such as  
20 supervised locations at parks with stores and campgrounds; and

21 (v) Service to areas without a permanent collection site,  
22 including service to island and geographically isolated communities  
23 without a permanent collection site.

24 (c) For medium format batteries, a battery stewardship  
25 organization must provide statewide collection opportunities that  
26 include, but are not limited to, the provision of:

27 (i) At least 25 permanent collection sites in Washington;

28 (ii) Reasonable geographic dispersion of collection sites  
29 throughout the state;

30 (iii) A collection site in each county of at least 200,000  
31 persons, as determined by the most recent population estimate of the  
32 office of financial management;

33 (iv) The establishment of collection sites that are accessible to  
34 public transit and that are convenient to overburdened communities  
35 identified by the department under chapter 70A.02 RCW; and

36 (v) Service to areas without a permanent collection site,  
37 including service to island and geographically isolated communities.  
38 A battery stewardship organization must ensure that there is a  
39 collection site or annual collection event in each county of the  
40 state. Collection events should be provided periodically throughout

1 the year where practicable, but must be provided at least once per  
2 year at a minimum in each county in which there are not permanent  
3 collection sites providing for the collection of damaged and  
4 defective batteries.

5 (4) (a) Battery stewardship programs must use existing public and  
6 private waste collection services and facilities, including battery  
7 collection sites that are established through other battery  
8 collection services, transporters, consolidators, processors, and  
9 retailers, where cost-effective, mutually agreeable, and otherwise  
10 practicable.

11 (b) (i) Battery stewardship programs must use as a collection site  
12 for covered batteries any retailer, wholesaler, municipality, solid  
13 waste management facility, or other entity that meets the criteria  
14 for collection sites in the approved plan, upon the submission of a  
15 request by the entity to the battery stewardship organization to  
16 serve as a collection site.

17 (ii) Battery stewardship programs must use as a site for a  
18 collection event for covered batteries any retailer, wholesaler,  
19 municipality, solid waste management facility, or other entity that  
20 meets the criteria for collection events in the approved plan, upon  
21 the submission of a request by the entity to the battery stewardship  
22 organization to serve as a site for a collection event. A signed  
23 agreement between a battery stewardship organization and the entity  
24 requesting to hold a collection event must be established at least 60  
25 days prior to any collection of covered batteries under a stewardship  
26 program. All costs associated with collection events initiated by an  
27 entity other than a battery stewardship organization are the sole  
28 responsibility of the entity unless otherwise agreed upon by a  
29 battery stewardship organization. A collection event under this  
30 subsection (4) (b) (ii) must allow any person to discard each chemistry  
31 and brand of covered battery at the collection event.

32 (c) (i) A local government facility may collect batteries at its  
33 own expense through a collection site or temporary collection event  
34 that is not a collection site or event under the program implemented  
35 by a battery stewardship organization. A local government facility  
36 that collects covered batteries under this subsection must, in  
37 accordance with procedures set forth in battery stewardship  
38 organization plans approved by the department:



1 (A) Notify battery stewardship organizations of the local  
2 government facility's decision to operate a collection site that is  
3 not a collection site under a program established under this chapter;

4 (B) Collect each chemistry and brand of covered battery at its  
5 collection site or sites;

6 (C) Collect, sort, and package collected materials in a manner  
7 that meets the standards established in a battery stewardship  
8 organization plan approved by the department;

9 (D) Either provide the collected batteries to the battery  
10 stewardship organization in lawful transportation containers for it  
11 to transfer the collected batteries at a processing facility the  
12 battery stewardship organization has approved, or transport to, or  
13 arrange for the transportation of collected batteries for processing  
14 at a facility that a battery stewardship organization has approved  
15 under a plan approved by the department.

16 (ii) A local government facility that collects materials at a  
17 collection site or temporary collection event operating outside of a  
18 battery stewardship program must also report, to a battery  
19 stewardship organization, information necessary for the battery  
20 stewardship organization to fulfill its reporting obligations under  
21 section 10 of this act. A battery stewardship organization may count  
22 materials collected by a local government facility under this  
23 subsection (4)(c) towards the achievement of performance requirements  
24 established in section 6 of this act.

25 (d) A battery stewardship organization may suspend or terminate a  
26 collection site or service that does not adhere to the collection  
27 site criteria in the approved plan or that poses an immediate health  
28 and safety concern.

29 (5)(a) Stewardship programs are not required to provide for the  
30 collection of battery-containing products.

31 (b) Stewardship programs are not required to provide for the  
32 collection of batteries that:

33 (i) Are not easily removable from the product other than by the  
34 manufacturer; and

35 (ii) Remain contained in a battery-containing product at the time  
36 of delivery to a collection site.

37 (c) Stewardship programs are required to provide for the  
38 collection of loose batteries.

1 (d) Stewardship programs are not required to provide for the  
2 collection of batteries still contained in covered electronic  
3 products under chapter 70A.500 RCW.

4 (6) Batteries collected by the program must be managed consistent  
5 with the battery management hierarchy. Lower priority end-of-life  
6 battery management options on the battery management hierarchy may be  
7 used by a program only when a battery stewardship organization  
8 documents to the department that all higher priority battery  
9 management options on the battery management hierarchy are not  
10 technologically feasible or economically practical.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM COMPONENTS—EDUCATION  
12 AND OUTREACH REQUIREMENTS. (1) Each battery stewardship organization  
13 must carry out promotional activities in support of plan  
14 implementation including, but not limited to, the development:

15 (a) And maintenance of a website;

16 (b) And distribution of periodic press releases and articles;

17 (c) And placement of advertisements for use on social media or  
18 other relevant media platforms;

19 (d) Of promotional materials about the program and the  
20 restriction on the disposal of covered batteries in section 15 of  
21 this act to be used by retailers, government agencies, and nonprofit  
22 organizations;

23 (e) And distribution of collection site safety training  
24 procedures that are in compliance with state law to collection sites  
25 to help ensure proper management of covered batteries at collection  
26 sites; and

27 (f) And implementation of outreach and educational resources  
28 targeted to overburdened communities and vulnerable populations  
29 identified by the department under chapter 70A.02 RCW that are  
30 conceptually, linguistically, and culturally accurate for the  
31 communities served and reach the state's diverse ethnic populations,  
32 including through meaningful consultation with communities that bear  
33 disproportionately higher levels of adverse environmental and social  
34 justice impacts.

35 (2) Each battery stewardship organization must provide:

36 (a) Consumer-focused educational promotional materials to each  
37 collection site used by the program and accessible by customers of  
38 retailers that sell covered batteries or battery-containing products;  
39 and

1 (b) Safety information related to covered battery collection  
2 activities to the operator of each collection site, including  
3 appropriate protocols to reduce risks of spills or fires and response  
4 protocols in the event of a spill or fire.

5 (3) (a) Each battery stewardship organization must provide  
6 educational materials to the operator of each collection site for the  
7 management of recalled batteries, which are not intended to be part  
8 of collection as provided under section 8 of this act, to help  
9 facilitate transportation and processing of recalled batteries.

10 (b) A battery stewardship organization may seek reimbursement  
11 from the producer of the recalled battery for expenses incurred in  
12 the collection, transportation, or processing of those batteries.

13 (4) Upon request by a retailer, the battery stewardship  
14 organization must provide the retailer educational materials  
15 describing collection opportunities for batteries.

16 (5) If multiple battery stewardship organizations are  
17 implementing plans approved by the department, the battery  
18 stewardship organizations must coordinate in carrying out their  
19 education and outreach responsibilities under this section and must  
20 include in their annual reports to the department under section 10 of  
21 this act a summary of their coordinated education and outreach  
22 efforts.

23 (6) During the first year of program implementation and every  
24 five years thereafter, each battery stewardship organization must  
25 carry out a survey of public awareness regarding the requirements of  
26 the program established under this chapter, including the provisions  
27 of section 15 of this act. Each battery stewardship organization must  
28 share the results of the public awareness surveys with the  
29 department.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. (1) By June 1,  
31 2028, and each June 1st thereafter, each battery stewardship  
32 organization must submit an annual report to the department covering  
33 the preceding calendar year of battery stewardship plan  
34 implementation. The report must include:

35 (a) An independent financial assessment of a program implemented  
36 by the battery stewardship organization, including a breakdown of the  
37 program's expenses, such as collection, recycling, education, and  
38 overhead, when required by the department;

1 (b) A summary financial statement documenting the financing of a  
2 battery stewardship organization's program and an analysis of program  
3 costs and expenditures, including an analysis of the program's  
4 expenses, such as collection, transportation, recycling, education,  
5 and administrative overhead. The summary financial statement must be  
6 sufficiently detailed to provide transparency that funds collected  
7 from producers as a result of their activities in Washington are  
8 spent on program implementation in Washington. Battery stewardship  
9 organizations implementing similar battery stewardship programs in  
10 multiple states may submit a financial statement including all  
11 covered states, as long as the statement breaks out financial  
12 information pertinent to Washington;

13 (c) The weight, by chemistry, of covered batteries collected  
14 under the program;

15 (d) The weight of materials recycled from covered batteries  
16 collected under the program, in total, and by method of battery  
17 recycling;

18 (e) A calculation of the recycling efficiency rates, as measured  
19 consistent with subsection (2) of this section;

20 (f) For each facility used for the final disposition of  
21 batteries, a description of how the facility recycled or otherwise  
22 disposed of batteries and battery components;

23 (g) The weight and chemistry of batteries sent to each facility  
24 used for the final disposition of batteries. The information in this  
25 subsection (1)(g) may be approximated for program operations in  
26 Washington based on extrapolations of national or regional data for  
27 programs in operation in multiple states;

28 (h) The collection rate achieved under the program, including a  
29 description of how this collection rate was calculated;

30 (i) The estimated aggregate sales, by weight and chemistry, of  
31 batteries and batteries contained in or with battery-containing  
32 products sold in Washington by participating producers for each of  
33 the previous three calendar years;

34 (j) A description of the manner in which the collected batteries  
35 were managed and recycled, including a discussion of best available  
36 technologies and the recycling efficiency rate;

37 (k) A description of education and outreach efforts supporting  
38 plan implementation including, but not limited to, a summary of  
39 education and outreach provided to consumers, collection sites,  
40 manufacturers, distributors, and retailers by the program operator

1 for the purpose of promoting the collection and recycling of covered  
2 batteries, a description of how that education and outreach met the  
3 requirements of section 9 of this act, samples of education and  
4 outreach materials, a summary of coordinated education and outreach  
5 efforts with any other battery stewardship organizations implementing  
6 a plan approved by the department, and a summary of any changes made  
7 during the previous calendar year to education and outreach  
8 activities;

9 (l) A list of all collection sites and accompanying latitude and  
10 longitude data and an address for each listed site, and an up-to-date  
11 map indicating the location of all collection sites used to implement  
12 the program, with links to appropriate websites where there are  
13 existing websites associated with a site;

14 (m) A description of methods used to collect, transport, and  
15 recycle covered batteries by the battery stewardship organization;

16 (n) A summary on progress made towards the program performance  
17 goals established under section 6 of this act, and an explanation of  
18 why performance goals were not met, if applicable; and

19 (o) An evaluation of the effectiveness of education and outreach  
20 activities.

21 (2) The weight of batteries or recovered resources from those  
22 batteries must only be counted once and may not be counted by more  
23 than one battery stewardship organization.

24 (3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (1) of this  
25 section, with respect to each facility used in the processing or  
26 disposition of batteries collected under the program, the battery  
27 stewardship organization must report:

28 (a) Whether the facility is located domestically, in an  
29 organization for economic cooperation and development country, or in  
30 a country that meets organization for economic cooperation and  
31 development operating standards; and

32 (b) What facilities processed the batteries, including a summary  
33 of any violations of environmental or labor laws and regulations over  
34 the previous three years at each facility.

35 (4) If a battery stewardship organization has disposed of covered  
36 batteries through energy recovery, incineration, or landfilling during  
37 the preceding calendar year of program implementation, the annual  
38 report must specify the steps that the battery stewardship  
39 organization will take to make the recycling of covered batteries

1 cost-effective, where possible, or to otherwise increase battery  
2 recycling rates achieved by the battery stewardship organization.

3 (5) A producer or battery stewardship organization that submits  
4 information or records to the department under this chapter may  
5 request that the information or records be made available only for  
6 the confidential use of the department, the director of the  
7 department, or the appropriate division of the department. The  
8 director of the department must consider the request and if this  
9 action is not detrimental to the public interest and is otherwise in  
10 accordance with the policies and purposes of chapter 43.21A RCW, the  
11 director must grant the request for the information to remain  
12 confidential as authorized in RCW 43.21A.160.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** FEE AND DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY ROLE. (1)

14 The department must adopt rules as necessary for the purpose of  
15 implementing, administering, and enforcing this chapter. The  
16 department must by rule establish fees, to be paid annually by a  
17 battery stewardship organization, that are adequate to cover the  
18 department's full costs of implementing, administering, and enforcing  
19 this chapter and allocates costs between battery stewardship  
20 organizations, if applicable. If the department adopts rules that  
21 require producers of certain large format batteries or other battery  
22 categories addressed in sections 16 and 17 of this act to participate  
23 in a battery stewardship organization regulated by the department,  
24 the department may establish fees to be paid annually by a battery  
25 stewardship organization that are adequate to cover the department's  
26 full costs of implementing, administering, and enforcing the  
27 requirements of this chapter applicable to those batteries. All fees  
28 must be based on costs related to implementing, administering, and  
29 enforcing this chapter, not to exceed expenses incurred by the  
30 department for these activities.

31 (2) The responsibilities of the department in implementing,  
32 administering, and enforcing this chapter include, but are not  
33 limited to:

34 (a) Reviewing submitted stewardship plans and plan amendments and  
35 making determinations as to whether to approve the plan or plan  
36 amendment;

37 (i) The department must provide a letter of approval for the plan  
38 or plan amendment if it provides for the establishment of a

1 stewardship program that meets the requirements of sections 3 through  
2 9 of this act;

3 (ii) If a plan or plan amendment is rejected, the department must  
4 provide the reasons for rejecting the plan to the battery stewardship  
5 organization. The battery stewardship organization must submit a new  
6 plan within 60 days after receipt of the letter of disapproval; and

7 (iii) When a plan or an amendment to an approved plan is  
8 submitted under this section, the department shall make the proposed  
9 plan or amendment available for public review and comment for at  
10 least 30 days;

11 (b) Reviewing annual reports submitted under section 10 of this  
12 act within 90 days of submission to ensure compliance with that  
13 section;

14 (c)(i) Maintaining a website that lists producers and their  
15 brands that are participating in an approved plan, and that makes  
16 available to the public each plan, plan amendment, and annual report  
17 received by the department under this chapter;

18 (ii) Upon the date the first plan is approved, the department  
19 must post on its website a list of producers and their brands for  
20 which the department has approved a plan. The department must update  
21 the list of producers and brands participating under an approved  
22 program plan based on information provided to the department from  
23 battery stewardship organizations; and

24 (d) Providing technical assistance to producers and retailers  
25 related to the requirements of this chapter and issuing orders or  
26 imposing civil penalties authorized under section 12 of this act  
27 where the technical assistance efforts do not lead to compliance by a  
28 producer or retailer.

29 (3) Beginning January 1, 2032, and every five years thereafter,  
30 after consultation with battery stewardship organizations, the  
31 department may by rule increase the minimum recycling efficiency  
32 rates established in section 6 of this act based on the most  
33 economically and technically feasible processes and methodology  
34 available.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** PENALTIES AND CIVIL ACTION PROVISIONS.

36 (1)(a) A battery stewardship organization implementing an approved  
37 plan may bring a civil action or actions to recover costs, damages,  
38 and fees, as specified in this section, from a producer who sells or  
39 otherwise makes available in Washington covered batteries, battery-

1 containing products, or large format batteries not included in an  
2 approved plan in violation of the requirements of this chapter. An  
3 action under this section may be brought against one or more  
4 defendants. An action may only be brought against a defendant  
5 producer when the stewardship program incurs costs in Washington,  
6 including reasonable incremental administrative and program  
7 promotional costs, in excess of \$1,000 to collect, transport, and  
8 recycle or otherwise dispose of the covered batteries, battery-  
9 containing products, or large format batteries of a nonparticipating  
10 producer.

11 (b) A battery stewardship organization may bring a civil action  
12 against a producer of a recalled battery to recover costs associated  
13 with handling a recalled battery.

14 (c) A battery stewardship organization implementing an approved  
15 stewardship plan may bring a civil action against another battery  
16 stewardship organization that under performs on its battery  
17 collection obligations under this chapter by failing to collect and  
18 provide for the end-of-life management of batteries in an amount  
19 roughly equivalent to costs imposed on the plaintiff battery  
20 stewardship organization by virtue of the failures of the defendants,  
21 plus legal fees and expenses.

22 (d) The remedies provided in this subsection are in addition to  
23 the enforcement authority of the department and do not limit and are  
24 not limited by a decision by the department to impose a civil penalty  
25 or issue an order under subsection (2) of this section. The  
26 department is not required to audit, participate in, or provide  
27 assistance to a battery stewardship organization pursuing a civil  
28 action authorized under this subsection.

29 (2)(a) The department may administratively impose a civil penalty  
30 on a person who violates this chapter in an amount of up to \$1,000  
31 per violation per day.

32 (b) The department may administratively impose a civil penalty of  
33 up to \$10,000 per violation per day on a person for repeated  
34 violations of this chapter or failure to comply with an order issued  
35 under (c) of this subsection.

36 (c) Whenever on the basis of any information the department  
37 determines that a person has violated or is in violation of this  
38 chapter, the department may issue an order requiring compliance. A  
39 person who fails to take corrective action as specified in a  
40 compliance order is liable for a civil penalty as provided in (b) of



1 this subsection, without receiving a written warning prescribed in  
2 (e) of this subsection.

3 (d) A person who is issued an order or incurs a penalty under  
4 this section may appeal the order or penalty to the pollution control  
5 hearings board established by chapter 43.21B RCW.

6 (e) Prior to imposing penalties under this section, the  
7 department must provide a producer, retailer, or battery stewardship  
8 organization with a written warning for the first violation by the  
9 producer, retailer, or battery stewardship organization of the  
10 requirements of this chapter. The written warning must inform a  
11 producer, retailer, or battery stewardship organization that it must  
12 participate in an approved plan or otherwise come into compliance  
13 with the requirements of this chapter within 30 days of the notice. A  
14 producer, retailer, or battery stewardship organization that violates  
15 a provision of this chapter after the initial written warning may be  
16 assessed a penalty as provided in this subsection.

17 (3) Penalties levied under subsection (2) of this section must be  
18 deposited in the model toxics control operating account created in  
19 RCW 70A.305.180.

20 (4) No penalty may be assessed on an individual or resident for  
21 the improper disposal of covered batteries as described in section 15  
22 of this act in a noncommercial or residential setting.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** RESPONSIBLE BATTERY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.  
24 The responsible battery management account is created in the custody  
25 of the state treasurer. All receipts from fees paid under this  
26 chapter must be deposited in the account. Only the director of the  
27 department or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from  
28 the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under  
29 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for  
30 expenditures. Moneys in the account may be used solely by the  
31 department for administering, implementing, and enforcing the  
32 requirements of this chapter. Funds in the account may not be  
33 diverted for any purpose or activity other than those specified in  
34 this section.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 14.** MARKING REQUIREMENTS FOR BATTERIES. (1)  
36 Beginning January 1, 2028, a producer or retailer may only sell,  
37 distribute, or offer for sale in or into Washington a large format  
38 battery, covered battery, or battery-containing product that contains

1 a battery that is designed or intended to be easily removable from  
2 the product, if the battery is:

3 (a) Marked with an identification of the producer of the battery,  
4 unless the battery is less than one-half inch in diameter or does not  
5 contain a surface whose length exceeds one-half inch; and

6 (b) Beginning January 1, 2030, marked with proper labeling to  
7 ensure proper collection and recycling, by identifying the chemistry  
8 of the battery and including an indication that the battery should  
9 not be disposed of as household waste.

10 (2) A producer shall certify to its customers, or to the retailer  
11 if the retailer is not the customer, that the requirements of this  
12 section have been met, as provided in section 4 of this act.

13 (3) The department may amend, by rule, the requirements of  
14 subsection (1) of this section to maintain consistency with the  
15 labeling requirements or voluntary standards for batteries  
16 established in federal law.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 15.** GENERAL BATTERY DISPOSAL AND COLLECTION  
18 REQUIREMENTS. Effective July 1, 2027, for portable batteries and July  
19 1, 2029, for medium format batteries, or the first date on which an  
20 approved plan begins to be implemented under this chapter by a  
21 battery stewardship organization, whichever comes first:

22 (1) All persons must dispose of unwanted covered batteries  
23 through one of the following disposal options:

24 (a) Disposal using the collection sites established by or  
25 included in the programs created by this chapter;

26 (b) For covered batteries generated by persons that are regulated  
27 generators of covered batteries under federal or state hazardous or  
28 solid waste laws, disposal in a manner consistent with the  
29 requirements of those laws; or

30 (c) Disposal using local government collection facilities that  
31 collect batteries consistent with section 8(4)(c) of this act.

32 (2)(a) A fee may not be charged at the time unwanted covered  
33 batteries are delivered or collected for management.

34 (b) All covered batteries may only be collected, transported, and  
35 processed in a manner that meets the standards established for a  
36 battery stewardship organization in a plan approved by the  
37 department, unless the batteries are being managed as described in  
38 subsection (1)(b) of this section.

1 (3) A person may not place covered batteries in waste containers  
2 for disposal at incinerators, waste to energy facilities, or  
3 landfills.

4 (4) A person may not place covered batteries in or on a container  
5 for mixed recyclables unless there is a separate location or  
6 compartment for the covered battery that complies with local  
7 government collection standards or guidelines.

8 (5) An owner or operator of a solid waste facility may not be  
9 found in violation of this section if the facility has posted in a  
10 conspicuous location a sign stating that covered batteries must be  
11 managed through collection sites established by a battery stewardship  
12 organization and are not accepted for disposal.

13 (6) A solid waste collector may not be found in violation of this  
14 section for a covered battery placed in a disposal container by the  
15 generator of the covered battery.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 16.** DEPARTMENT ASSESSMENT OF LARGE FORMAT  
17 BATTERIES, MEDICAL DEVICES, LEAD ACID BATTERIES, AND BATTERY-  
18 CONTAINING PRODUCTS AND THEIR BATTERIES. (1) By July 1, 2027, the  
19 department must complete an assessment of the opportunities and  
20 challenges associated with the end-of-life management of batteries  
21 that are not covered batteries, including:

22 (a) Large format batteries;

23 (b) Lead acid batteries that are greater than 11 pounds or are  
24 subject to the provisions of RCW 70A.205.505 through 70A.205.530;

25 (c) Batteries contained in medical devices, as specified in Title  
26 21 U.S.C. Sec. 360c as it existed as of the effective date of this  
27 section that are not designed and marketed for sale or resale  
28 principally to consumers for personal use; and

29 (d) Batteries not intended or designed to be easily removed by a  
30 customer that are contained in battery-containing products, including  
31 medical devices, and in electronic products that are not covered  
32 electronic products managed under an approved plan implemented under  
33 chapter 70A.500 RCW.

34 (2) The department must consult with the department of commerce  
35 and interested stakeholders in completing the assessment, including  
36 consultation with overburdened communities and vulnerable populations  
37 identified by the department under chapter 70A.02 RCW. The assessment  
38 must identify any needed adjustments to the stewardship program  
39 requirements established in this chapter that are necessary to

1 maximize public health, safety, and environmental benefits, such as  
2 battery reuse.

3 (3) The assessment must consider:

4 (a) The different categories and uses of batteries and battery-  
5 containing products listed in subsection (1) of this section;

6 (b) The current economic value and reuse or recycling potential  
7 of large format batteries or large format battery components and a  
8 summary of studies examining the environmental and equity  
9 implications of displacing demand for new rare earth materials,  
10 critical materials, and other conflict materials through the reuse  
11 and recycling of batteries;

12 (c) The current methods by which unwanted batteries and battery-  
13 containing products listed in subsection (1) of this section are  
14 managed in Washington and nearby states and provinces;

15 (d) Challenges posed by the potential collection, management, and  
16 transport of batteries and battery-containing products listed in  
17 subsection (1) of this section, including challenges associated with  
18 removing batteries that were not intended or designed to be easily  
19 removable from products, other than by the manufacturer; and

20 (e) Which criteria of this chapter should apply to batteries and  
21 battery-containing products listed in subsection (1) of this section  
22 in a manner that is identical or analogous to the requirements  
23 applicable to covered batteries.

24 (4) By October 1, 2027, the department must submit a report to  
25 the appropriate committees of the legislature containing the findings  
26 of the assessment required in this section.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 17.** DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY RULE MAKING TO  
28 REQUIRE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM PARTICIPATION  
29 REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE FORMAT BATTERIES, MEDICAL DEVICES, LEAD ACID  
30 BATTERIES, AND BATTERY-CONTAINING PRODUCTS AND THEIR BATTERIES. (1)  
31 By January 1, 2030, the department may, but is not required to, adopt  
32 rules that require producers of batteries and battery-containing  
33 products assessed in section 16 of this act to participate in a  
34 stewardship program that achieves environmentally positive outcomes  
35 similar to those achieved by a battery stewardship program for medium  
36 format and portable batteries. As part of this rule, the department  
37 may apply some or all of the provisions of section 15 of this act to  
38 these batteries and battery-containing products. Nothing in this  
39 subsection restricts the department from adopting or updating rules

1 after January 1, 2030, provided that the department has adopted rules  
2 under this section prior to January 1, 2030.

3 (2) Any rules adopted by the department under this section must  
4 require producers of batteries and battery-containing products  
5 assessed in section 16 of this act to participate in a stewardship  
6 program by no earlier than July 1, 2031. Rules adopted by the  
7 department may, but are not required to, include additional types of  
8 batteries assessed in section 16 of this act as covered batteries for  
9 purposes of this chapter.

10 (3) In adopting rules, the department must consider the results  
11 of the assessment required under section 16 of this act and involve  
12 the expertise of the department's recycling development center  
13 created in chapter 70A.240 RCW.

14 (4) The department must delay or exclude categories of batteries  
15 or battery-containing products, including categories of large format  
16 batteries and batteries that are excluded from the definition of a  
17 covered battery in section 2 of this act, based on the results of the  
18 assessment required under section 16 of this act, from stewardship  
19 program requirements, if the department determines that stewardship  
20 program requirements are infeasible for a category of batteries or  
21 battery-containing products because:

22 (a) An existing industry or other battery management system  
23 exists for the battery or battery-containing product category covered  
24 by the assessment in section 16 of this act that currently attains a  
25 rate of collection that exceeds 95 percent of the number of that  
26 category of batteries sold in Washington each year, and the existing  
27 battery management system processes the batteries using  
28 environmentally sound management practices; or

29 (b) A delay or exclusion from program participation requirements  
30 is necessary to protect human health or the environment.

31 (5) The department must exclude from any rules adopted by the  
32 department under this section any large format batteries contained in  
33 or originating from electric vehicles if, by July 1, 2030, electric  
34 vehicle batteries are managed under state law in a manner that  
35 achieves similar outcomes to the program created in this chapter.

36 (6) In addition to the exemptions established in subsections (4)  
37 and (5) of this section, the department may exclude producers from  
38 some or all of the stewardship program requirements under the rules  
39 adopted by the department, based on other factors determined by the  
40 department.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 18.**    DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
2 MANAGEMENT OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE BATTERIES. (1) By November 30, 2023,  
3 the department of ecology must submit a report to the appropriate  
4 committees of the legislature on preliminary policy recommendations  
5 for the collection and management of electric vehicle batteries. By  
6 April 30, 2024, the department of ecology must report to the  
7 appropriate committees of the legislature on final policy  
8 recommendations for the collection and management of electric vehicle  
9 batteries.

10        (2) In developing the recommendations under subsection (1) of  
11 this section, the department of ecology must:

12        (a) Solicit input from representatives of automotive wrecking and  
13 salvage yards, solid waste collection and processing companies, local  
14 governments, environmental organizations, electric vehicle  
15 manufacturers, and any other interested parties; and

16        (b) Examine best practices in other states and jurisdictions.

17        NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 19.**        ANTITRUST. Producers or battery  
18 stewardship organizations acting on behalf of producers that prepare,  
19 submit, and implement a battery stewardship program plan pursuant to  
20 this chapter and who are thereby subject to regulation by the  
21 department are granted immunity from state laws relating to  
22 antitrust, restraint of trade, unfair trade practices, and other  
23 regulation of trade and commerce, for the limited purpose of  
24 planning, reporting, and operating a battery stewardship program,  
25 including:

26        (1) The creation, implementation, or management of a battery  
27 stewardship organization and any battery stewardship plan regardless  
28 of whether it is submitted, denied, or approved;

29        (2) The determination of the cost and structure of a battery  
30 stewardship plan; and

31        (3) The types or quantities of batteries being recycled or  
32 otherwise managed pursuant to this chapter.

33        NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 20.**        AUTHORITY OF THE UTILITIES AND  
34 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION. Nothing in this chapter changes or limits  
35 the authority of the Washington utilities and transportation  
36 commission to regulate collection of solid waste, including curbside  
37 collection of residential recyclable materials, nor does this chapter

1 change or limit the authority of a city or town to provide the  
2 service itself or by contract under RCW 81.77.020.

3 **Sec. 21.** RCW 43.21B.110 and 2022 c 180 s 812 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) The hearings board shall only have jurisdiction to hear and  
6 decide appeals from the following decisions of the department, the  
7 director, local conservation districts, the air pollution control  
8 boards or authorities as established pursuant to chapter 70A.15 RCW,  
9 local health departments, the department of natural resources, the  
10 department of fish and wildlife, the parks and recreation commission,  
11 and authorized public entities described in chapter 79.100 RCW:

12 (a) Civil penalties imposed pursuant to RCW 18.104.155,  
13 70A.15.3160, 70A.300.090, 70A.20.050, 70A.530.040, 70A.350.070,  
14 70A.515.060, 70A.245.040, 70A.245.050, 70A.245.070, 70A.245.080,  
15 70A.65.200, 70A.455.090, section 12 of this act, 76.09.170,  
16 77.55.440, 78.44.250, 88.46.090, 90.03.600, 90.46.270, 90.48.144,  
17 90.56.310, 90.56.330, and 90.64.102.

18 (b) Orders issued pursuant to RCW 18.104.043, 18.104.060,  
19 43.27A.190, 70A.15.2520, 70A.15.3010, 70A.300.120, 70A.350.070,  
20 70A.245.020, 70A.65.200, section 12 of this act, 86.16.020,  
21 88.46.070, 90.14.130, 90.46.250, 90.48.120, and 90.56.330.

22 (c) Except as provided in RCW 90.03.210(2), the issuance,  
23 modification, or termination of any permit, certificate, or license  
24 by the department or any air authority in the exercise of its  
25 jurisdiction, including the issuance or termination of a waste  
26 disposal permit, the denial of an application for a waste disposal  
27 permit, the modification of the conditions or the terms of a waste  
28 disposal permit, or a decision to approve or deny an application for  
29 a solid waste permit exemption under RCW 70A.205.260.

30 (d) Decisions of local health departments regarding the grant or  
31 denial of solid waste permits pursuant to chapter 70A.205 RCW.

32 (e) Decisions of local health departments regarding the issuance  
33 and enforcement of permits to use or dispose of biosolids under RCW  
34 70A.226.090.

35 (f) Decisions of the department regarding waste-derived  
36 fertilizer or micronutrient fertilizer under RCW 15.54.820, and  
37 decisions of the department regarding waste-derived soil amendments  
38 under RCW 70A.205.145.

1 (g) Decisions of local conservation districts related to the  
2 denial of approval or denial of certification of a dairy nutrient  
3 management plan; conditions contained in a plan; application of any  
4 dairy nutrient management practices, standards, methods, and  
5 technologies to a particular dairy farm; and failure to adhere to the  
6 plan review and approval timelines in RCW 90.64.026.

7 (h) Any other decision by the department or an air authority  
8 which pursuant to law must be decided as an adjudicative proceeding  
9 under chapter 34.05 RCW.

10 (i) Decisions of the department of natural resources, the  
11 department of fish and wildlife, and the department that are  
12 reviewable under chapter 76.09 RCW, and the department of natural  
13 resources' appeals of county, city, or town objections under RCW  
14 76.09.050(7).

15 (j) Forest health hazard orders issued by the commissioner of  
16 public lands under RCW 76.06.180.

17 (k) Decisions of the department of fish and wildlife to issue,  
18 deny, condition, or modify a hydraulic project approval permit under  
19 chapter 77.55 RCW, to issue a stop work order, to issue a notice to  
20 comply, to issue a civil penalty, or to issue a notice of intent to  
21 disapprove applications.

22 (l) Decisions of the department of natural resources that are  
23 reviewable under RCW 78.44.270.

24 (m) Decisions of an authorized public entity under RCW 79.100.010  
25 to take temporary possession or custody of a vessel or to contest the  
26 amount of reimbursement owed that are reviewable by the hearings  
27 board under RCW 79.100.120.

28 (n) Decisions of the department of ecology that are appealable  
29 under RCW 70A.245.020 to set recycled minimum postconsumer content  
30 for covered products or to temporarily exclude types of covered  
31 products in plastic containers from minimum postconsumer recycled  
32 content requirements.

33 (o) Orders by the department of ecology under RCW 70A.455.080.

34 (2) The following hearings shall not be conducted by the hearings  
35 board:

36 (a) Hearings required by law to be conducted by the shorelines  
37 hearings board pursuant to chapter 90.58 RCW.

38 (b) Hearings conducted by the department pursuant to RCW  
39 70A.15.3010, 70A.15.3070, 70A.15.3080, 70A.15.3090, 70A.15.3100,  
40 70A.15.3110, and 90.44.180.



1 (c) Appeals of decisions by the department under RCW 90.03.110  
2 and 90.44.220.

3 (d) Hearings conducted by the department to adopt, modify, or  
4 repeal rules.

5 (3) Review of rules and regulations adopted by the hearings board  
6 shall be subject to review in accordance with the provisions of the  
7 administrative procedure act, chapter 34.05 RCW.

8 **Sec. 22.** RCW 43.21B.300 and 2022 c 180 s 813 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1) Any civil penalty provided in RCW 18.104.155, 70A.15.3160,  
11 70A.205.280, 70A.300.090, 70A.20.050, 70A.245.040, 70A.245.050,  
12 70A.245.070, 70A.245.080, 70A.65.200, 70A.455.090, section 12 of this  
13 act, 88.46.090, 90.03.600, 90.46.270, 90.48.144, 90.56.310,  
14 90.56.330, and 90.64.102 and chapter 70A.355 RCW shall be imposed by  
15 a notice in writing, either by certified mail with return receipt  
16 requested or by personal service, to the person incurring the penalty  
17 from the department or the local air authority, describing the  
18 violation with reasonable particularity. For penalties issued by  
19 local air authorities, within 30 days after the notice is received,  
20 the person incurring the penalty may apply in writing to the  
21 authority for the remission or mitigation of the penalty. Upon  
22 receipt of the application, the authority may remit or mitigate the  
23 penalty upon whatever terms the authority in its discretion deems  
24 proper. The authority may ascertain the facts regarding all such  
25 applications in such reasonable manner and under such rules as it may  
26 deem proper and shall remit or mitigate the penalty only upon a  
27 demonstration of extraordinary circumstances such as the presence of  
28 information or factors not considered in setting the original  
29 penalty.

30 (2) Any penalty imposed under this section may be appealed to the  
31 pollution control hearings board in accordance with this chapter if  
32 the appeal is filed with the hearings board and served on the  
33 department or authority 30 days after the date of receipt by the  
34 person penalized of the notice imposing the penalty or 30 days after  
35 the date of receipt of the notice of disposition by a local air  
36 authority of the application for relief from penalty.

37 (3) A penalty shall become due and payable on the later of:

38 (a) (~~Thirty~~) 30 days after receipt of the notice imposing the  
39 penalty;

1 (b) (~~Thirty~~) 30 days after receipt of the notice of disposition  
2 by a local air authority on application for relief from penalty, if  
3 such an application is made; or

4 (c) (~~Thirty~~) 30 days after receipt of the notice of decision of  
5 the hearings board if the penalty is appealed.

6 (4) If the amount of any penalty is not paid to the department  
7 within 30 days after it becomes due and payable, the attorney  
8 general, upon request of the department, shall bring an action in the  
9 name of the state of Washington in the superior court of Thurston  
10 county, or of any county in which the violator does business, to  
11 recover the penalty. If the amount of the penalty is not paid to the  
12 authority within 30 days after it becomes due and payable, the  
13 authority may bring an action to recover the penalty in the superior  
14 court of the county of the authority's main office or of any county  
15 in which the violator does business. In these actions, the procedures  
16 and rules of evidence shall be the same as in an ordinary civil  
17 action.

18 (5) All penalties recovered shall be paid into the state treasury  
19 and credited to the general fund except those penalties imposed  
20 pursuant to RCW 18.104.155, which shall be credited to the  
21 reclamation account as provided in RCW 18.104.155(7), RCW  
22 70A.15.3160, the disposition of which shall be governed by that  
23 provision, RCW 70A.245.040 and 70A.245.050, which shall be credited  
24 to the recycling enhancement account created in RCW 70A.245.100, RCW  
25 70A.300.090 and section 12 of this act, which shall be credited to  
26 the model toxics control operating account created in RCW  
27 70A.305.180, RCW 70A.65.200, which shall be credited to the climate  
28 investment account created in RCW 70A.65.250, RCW 90.56.330, which  
29 shall be credited to the coastal protection fund created by RCW  
30 90.48.390, and RCW 70A.355.070, which shall be credited to the  
31 underground storage tank account created by RCW 70A.355.090.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 23.** A new section is added to chapter 82.04  
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 (1) This chapter does not apply to the receipts of a battery  
35 stewardship organization formed under chapter 70A.--- RCW (the new  
36 chapter created in section 24 of this act) from charges to  
37 participating producers under a battery stewardship program as  
38 provided in section 7 of this act.

1 (2) This section is not subject to the requirements of RCW  
2 82.32.805 and 82.32.808 and is not subject to an expiration date.

3 (3) The definitions in section 2 of this act apply throughout  
4 this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 24.** CODIFICATION. Sections 1 through 17, 19,  
6 and 20 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 70A RCW.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 25.** SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this  
8 act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid,  
9 the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
10 persons or circumstances is not affected."

11 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Prohibits fees from being charged at the time of unwanted covered battery collection by any person, and requires that collected batteries be collected, transported, and processed in a manner that meets standards applicable to a battery stewardship organization, instead of those provisions applying only batteries collected under a battery stewardship organization's program;

Requires battery stewardship programs to use as a site for a collection event any entity that meets the criteria in a battery stewardship organization's approved plan, if an entity has a signed agreement in place with the battery stewardship organization at least 60 days prior to an event;

Provides that an entity initiating a battery collection event must pay for the costs associated with the event unless a battery stewardship organization agrees otherwise, and must allow any brand or chemistry of battery to be discarded at the event;

Authorizes a local government facility to collect batteries through sites or events outside of the program implemented by the battery stewardship organization, and establishes certain requirements for batteries managed by local governments outside of the battery stewardship organization's program;

Provides for a battery stewardship organization to submit a plan to the department of ecology (ecology) by the later of July 1, 2026, or within 6 months of the adoption of ecology rules, rather than requiring a plan to be submitted by July 1, 2026, without consideration of the date on which ecology's rules are adopted;

Changes the mechanism for the proposal of updated performance goals by a battery recycling program to provide for updated plans or plan amendments to include any updated performance goals, rather than requiring updated goals to be proposed biennially as part of the annual report;

Deposits penalties paid for violations of battery stewardship program requirements into the model toxics control operating account rather than the new responsible battery management account, into which battery stewardship program fees are also deposited; and

Makes numerous clarifications and logistical specifications related to plan implementation, including: (1) Clarifying the relevant years to be used for the calculation of a program's

collection rate; (2) specifying that a producer may include the first person who sells or offers for sale a battery in or into Washington, in addition to a first person who distributes a battery in or into Washington; (3) specifying that restrictions on producers apply to persons making available and distributing covered batteries or battery containing products, in addition to those selling such products; (4) updating the convenience standards to reference the current urban area definition used by the United States census bureau; (5) standardizing references to "collection sites", rather than interchangeably referencing "collection sites" and "collection locations"; (6) specifying that the department of ecology may adopt rules to update references to federal standards; (7) specifying that certain provisions related to collection of covered batteries apply only to permanent collection sites or to temporary collection events; (8) clarifying that covered batteries that are generated by regulated generators of waste under federal and state hazardous waste or solid waste laws must manage those batteries in a manner consistent with federal and state hazardous waste and solid waste laws; and (9) clarifying the scope of the department of ecology's 2027 assessment of batteries.

--- END ---