



H.B. 169

127th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

**Reps. Wagner, Evans, J. McGregor, Latta, Stebelton, Chandler, Yuko,
Collier, Fessler**

BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits any person from commingling a used lead-acid battery with solid waste or disposing of a used lead-acid battery at a solid or hazardous waste facility.
- Requires a person to dispose of a used lead-acid battery by delivering it to a retailer, a wholesaler, a secondary lead smelter, an automotive repair business, a household hazardous waste collection location or event, or a lead-acid battery collection or recycling entity that operates in compliance with rules adopted under the Solid, Infectious, and Hazardous Waste Law.
- Requires a retailer to dispose of a used lead-acid battery by delivering it to a wholesaler, a secondary lead smelter, a battery manufacturer for delivery to a secondary lead smelter, or a lead-acid battery collection or recycling entity that operates in compliance with rules adopted under the Solid, Infectious, and Hazardous Waste Law.
- Requires a retailer to accept from a purchaser of a lead-acid battery, at the time of purchase, used lead-acid batteries of the same general type and in a quantity that is at least equal to the number sold to the purchaser if the purchaser offers the used lead-acid batteries to the retailer and to post the sign that is prescribed by the Director of Environmental Protection under the bill at a location that is visible to customers and in close proximity to the location where lead-acid batteries are displayed for sale at the retailer's location.
- Requires a wholesaler that sells lead-acid batteries in Ohio to accept from a purchaser of a lead-acid battery used lead-acid batteries of the same

general type and in a quantity that is at least equal to the number sold to the purchaser if the purchaser offers the used lead-acid batteries to the wholesaler.

- Requires the Director of Environmental Protection to prescribe a sign describing the bill's requirements for use by retailers.
- Establishes civil penalties for violations of the bill.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Prohibition against improper disposal of lead-acid batteries

The bill generally prohibits any person from commingling a used lead-acid battery with solid waste or disposing of a used lead-acid battery at a solid waste or hazardous waste facility (sec. 3734.911(A)). The bill defines "lead-acid battery" to mean a battery that contains lead and sulfuric acid, is used as a power source, and is not intended as a power source for consumer products (sec. 3734.91(B)). "Consumer product" is defined to mean any device that primarily is intended for personal or household use and typically is sold, distributed, or available to the general population through retail or mail-order distribution. "Consumer product" includes at least computers, electronic games, telephones, radios, and similar electronics, but does not include vehicles, motorcycles, wheelchairs, boats, or other forms of motive power. (Sec. 3734.91(A).)

The prohibition established by the bill applies to persons notwithstanding a provision in current law that specifies that the Solid, Infectious, and Hazardous Waste Law does not apply to single-family residential premises and notwithstanding any rule adopted under that Law to the contrary (sec. 3734.911(A)). The bill declares that each lead-acid battery that is improperly disposed of constitutes a separate violation of the bill (sec. 3734.911(D)).

Proper disposal requirements

Under the bill, a person must dispose of a used lead-acid battery by delivering it to one of the following:

- (1) A retailer, which is defined as a person that sells lead-acid batteries directly to the end user;¹

¹ Sec. 3734.91(C).

(2) A wholesaler, which is defined as a person that sells replacement lead-acid batteries for resale;²

(3) A secondary lead smelter, which is defined to mean a facility that produces lead from a lead-bearing scrap material by smelting the material to the metallic form and that is permitted or licensed by a state or the United States Environmental Protection Agency;³

(4) An automotive repair business;

(5) A household hazardous waste collection location or event; or

(6) A lead-acid battery collection or recycling entity that operates in compliance with rules adopted under the Solid, Infectious, and Hazardous Waste Law (sec. 3734.911(B)).

Requirements pertaining to retailers

The bill requires a retailer to dispose of a used lead-acid battery by delivering it to one of the following:

(1) A wholesaler;

(2) A secondary lead smelter;

(3) A battery manufacturer for delivery to a secondary lead smelter; or

(4) A lead-acid battery collection or recycling entity that operates in compliance with rules adopted under the Solid, Infectious, and Hazardous Waste Law (sec. 3734.911(C)).

In addition, the bill requires a retailer that sells lead-acid batteries in Ohio to do both of the following:

(1) Accept from a purchaser of a lead-acid battery, at the time of purchase, used lead-acid batteries of the same general type and in a quantity that is at least equal to the number sold to the purchaser if the purchaser offers the used lead-acid batteries to the retailer; and

(2) Post the sign that is prescribed by the Director of Environmental Protection (see "Signage requirement," below) at a location that is visible to

² Sec. 3734.91(E).

³ Sec. 3734.91(D).

customers and in close proximity to the location where lead-acid batteries are displayed for sale at the retailer's location (sec. 3734.912).

Requirements pertaining to wholesalers

A wholesaler that sells lead-acid batteries in Ohio must accept from a purchaser of a lead-acid battery used lead-acid batteries of the same general type and in a quantity that is at least equal to the number sold to the purchaser if the purchaser offers the used lead-acid batteries to the wholesaler. Not later than 90 days after the day of purchase of a lead-acid battery by such a retailer from a wholesaler, the wholesaler must remove the applicable number of lead-acid batteries from the retailer's location. (Sec. 3734.913.)

Signage requirement

Under the bill, the Director of Environmental Protection must prescribe a sign for use by retailers in Ohio (see above). The sign must be at least eight and one-half inches by eleven inches in size, use lettering that is at least 30 point font in size, display the universal recycling symbol, and contain all of the following language:

- (1) "It is illegal to discard a used lead-acid battery."
- (2) "Recycle your used batteries."
- (3) "State law requires us to accept used lead-acid batteries for recycling in exchange for new batteries purchased." (Sec. 3734.914.)

Civil penalties

Persons that violate the bill's provisions regarding the disposal of lead-acid batteries are subject to a civil penalty of \$25 for each day of violation. Retailers and wholesalers that violate the bill's provisions are subject to the general civil penalty established in existing law for a violation of the Solid, Infectious, and Hazardous Waste Law, which is up to \$10,000 for each day of each violation. (Sec. 3734.13(C).)

Lead acid battery cases

The bill specifies that lead-acid battery cases sold in Ohio are not required to display a Society for Plastics Industry symbol or code, a Society for Automotive Engineers symbol or code, or another resin identification code (sec. 3734.915).

HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

04-19-07

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