



## PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association House Bill 1602 Creating a Safe Battery Recycling Stewardship Program January 20, 2026

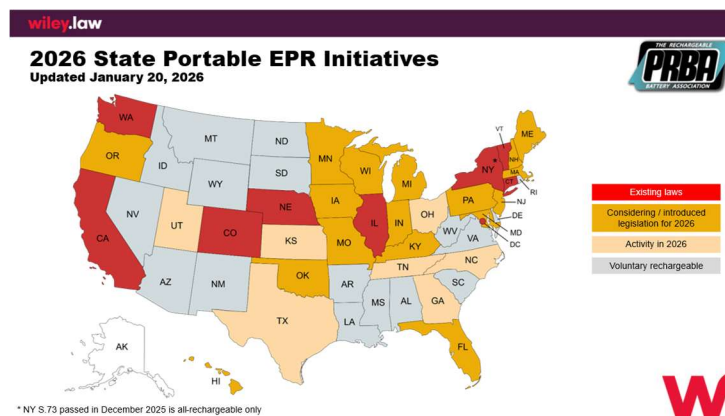
PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association strongly supports safe handling and responsible stewardship of batteries at the end of their intended use. We have worked extensively on and supported legislation to establish portable battery stewardship programs with our model legislation in other states and have worked closely with New Hampshire stakeholders on the development of HB 1602. PRBA fully supports HB 1602.

### PRBA Background

[PRBA](#) was formed in 1991 to respond to the need for workable portable rechargeable battery collection and recycling programs in the United States. To that end, PRBA members established pilot battery recycling programs in several states. Based on the success of these pilots, PRBA supported establishment and implementation of a national not-for-profit public education and portable battery recycling program.

PRBA members include the major manufacturers of rechargeable and non-rechargeable batteries as well as the leading manufacturers of battery-powered portable electronic equipment, power tools, outdoor power equipment, medical and military equipment, and hybrid and electric vehicles, battery recyclers, retailers, and large distributors of all batteries and equipment powered by them. Many of our members participate in battery collection and recycling programs in the United States and globally.

HB 1602 harmonizes with similar laws passed in seven states and the District of Columbia and is similar in format to bills introduced in 2026 in ten states and bills likely to be introduced in 2026 in eight states. The map below shows U.S. activity as of today. The red states are those with laws similar to HB 1602.





HB 1602 would establish a safe and economically sustainable collection and recycling program through battery stewardship organizations (BSO). BSOs are responsible for preparing and filing a battery stewardship plan on behalf of the producers with New Hampshire’s Department of Environmental Services that includes provisions for meeting all the legal requirements in the legislation. These requirements include, but are not limited to, establishing a state-wide portable and medium format battery collection program, meeting battery recycling efficiency and convenience standards, training, reporting annually to the state on battery collection and recycling activities, and consumer outreach and education. There is no cost to the consumer at the point of sale or return of batteries. Any costs associated with the program are treated as part of the manufacturing and distribution no different than the materials of which the battery is made. Costs for recycling are calculated on a nationwide basis by manufacturers, are included in wholesale costs, and will vary depending on the number of states participating and their respective programs. Thus, whether a state has its own program or not, recycling costs may be included in the cost of batteries. Property taxpayers currently paying for the disposal of batteries by the municipalities, will save the cost of management and disposal. Retailers may participate as collection sites at their option and their ability to participate increases the convenience to consumers wishing to easily dispose of their batteries. There is also no confusion for battery-users as the program would accept all chemistries of batteries.

Waste and recycling companies report fire nearly daily incidents from batteries disposed of in household waste or improperly added to mixed recycling streams. HB 1602 creates an independent infrastructure to safely and properly manage these batteries based on decades of experience in battery management.

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PRBA asks the committee to pass HB 1602 as introduced. We remain committed to work closely with sponsors and other interested parties on HB 1602 for a portable battery program in the best interest of New Hampshire’s residents and businesses.

Sincerely,

*Marc Boolish*

Marc Boolish  
Executive Director  
PRBA – The Rechargeable Battery Association