

RIGHT TO REPAIR + SB412 HB84

We need to fix our stuff.

When only the manufacturer or their “authorized technician” can fix something, they can charge whatever they want or they can say “it can’t be fixed” and push you into buying a new device.

Manufacturers’ repair restrictions affect a wide variety of products from cell phones, computers and appliances to medical devices and hospital equipment, to farm equipment and boats.

Repairing the digital divide

Early in the pandemic, a [nationwide laptop shortage](#) left millions of students unprepared for virtual learning. Due to disruptions in the supply chain, school districts in Maryland experienced [months-long delays](#) before receiving their laptop orders.

Right to Repair will give schools and other institutions the information they need to maintain equipment, and empower the refurbished computer market, saving taxpayer dollars and improving digital access for Maryland families.



Access to cost-effectiveness devices is a critical part of the digital divide. Right to Repair expands low-cost secondary repair markets.

ELECTRONICS REPAIR COULD
SAVE MARYLAND

**\$735 MILLION
PER YEAR**



Repair saves families money

Our research finds that repair can save Maryland [\\$735 million per year](#), leaving more money in consumer pockets.

And with stronger repair rights, this money spent on repair will circulate in the local economy rather than stimulate factory jobs overseas.

Ensuring repair rights also:

- Prevents price-gouging from manufacturers for replacement parts.
- Gives consumers more options, and fosters a more competitive marketplace.

HB84 SB412

Sen. Hester and Del. Feldmark

Requires manufacturers of electronic equipment to provide “fair and reasonable” access to replacement parts, tools, schematics or repair manuals, and diagnostic software

The policy is based on an existing, effective agreement between car manufacturers and independent repair shops.

This policy does not infringe on copyright, intellectual property, or warranty protection.

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No monopoly on safety

Manufacturers have built their repair tools, parts, and diagnostics to be used by minimally trained technicians in order to control labor costs. These same parts, tools, and diagnostics can be used with equal outcomes by any trained technician.

There is no empirical support for the idea that manufacturer repair is safer than any of their competitors.



A [survey of biomedics conducted by the U.S. PIRG Education Fund](#) indicated that 92% of respondents had been denied access to service information for critical equipment.

Supporting our hospitals

Without repair competition, hospitals have been forced into [expensive fees and contracts](#) with manufacturers to maintain and service medical equipment, needlessly driving up cost to patients.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, these restrictions hurt hospital's ability to care for patients. Some have not [been able to maintain or repair essential equipment, like ventilators.](#)

Supporting cybersecurity

Cybersecurity experts at Harvard's Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society have testified that Right to Repair reforms increase cybersecurity, a position echoed by leading industry experts which have formed the group SecuRepairs.

In restricting access to the materials consumers need to fix their devices, manufacturers prevent them from carrying out necessary maintenance. This creates a [lapse in security](#), and an opportunity for malicious actors to attack.



Farmers can experience delays in harvesting crops due to software errors that only authorized technicians can fix.

Standing up for farmers

Maryland farmers deserve protection from price gouging and consumer ripoffs. We need our farmers to be resilient and not dependent on manufacturers to ensure their equipment works.

Farm equipment manufacturers use repair restrictions to prevent [farmers from making necessary repairs](#), which increases costs and creates downtime.

Reducing toxic e-waste

E-waste is the [fastest growing waste stream](#) in the world, and it adds toxic heavy metals like [lead, mercury, and cadmium](#) into our landfills.

Maryland households produce [195,000 tons](#) of electronic waste per year. With more repair, these materials will remain in use instead of filling up landfills, be more useful for recyclers, and reduce the burden on new source material, manufacturing, and transportation of new devices. recyclers, and reduce the burden on new source material, manufacturing, and transportation of new devices.

