



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality
Environmental Solutions Division
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
(503) 229-5696
FAX (503) 229-5675
TTY 711

DATE: February 16, 2021
TO: House Committee on Business and Labor
FROM: Abby Boudouris, Legislative Analyst
SUBJECT: HB 2698 of 2021 Session

HB 2698 is a “Right to Repair” bill that gives consumers more opportunity to repair and extend the useful life of their digital electronic equipment. The bill requires manufacturers of such equipment to offer consumers and independent repair providers the same parts, tools and supporting documentation provided to authorized repair providers for repair purposes, on fair and reasonable terms. Repair of consumer products supports the efficient use of energy and resources through product life extension, expands equitable access to affordable goods, helps to rebuild the repair economy in Oregon and preserves important capacity for resilience in times of supply chain disruption.

HB 2698 aligns with state policy under ORS 459.015, which prioritizes reuse above recycling as a method in managing solid waste. HB 2698 also aligns with DEQ’s [2050 Vision of Materials Management in Oregon and a Framework for Action](#), the state’s solid waste management plan to address the significant environmental and health impacts of materials across their full life cycle—from product design to manufacturing, transportation, use and end-of-life management. The *2050 Vision* envisions an Oregon in 2050 where people produce and use materials responsibly—conserving resources, protecting the environment and living well. It lists reuse, repair and product life extension as a priority pathway to achieving the *Vision*.

Consistent with the *Vision*, DEQ developed a [Strategic Plan for Reuse, Repair, and Extending the Lifespan of Products in Oregon \(December 2016\)](#) to highlight specific actions to expand reuse and repair options for businesses and consumers. Consumer electronics is identified in the *Strategic Plan* as a material with significant environmental impacts that can be avoided through reuse, repair or remanufacturing. A ban on the landfill disposal of electronic waste (computers, printers, monitors and TVs) was established in 2010 and DEQ administers the E-Cycles program to provide an option for free recycling of these items. Over 11,000 tons of electronics were collected for recycling in 2019. Many other devices collected through the program are still serviceable, with over 23,000 units reused in 2020. These refurbished items can provide affordable alternatives to many that lack digital access.

The *Strategic Plan* also includes “Right to Repair” as a concept to explore in developing policy that can extend the functional lifespan of products and reduce the environmental impacts associated with producing new products. To support Oregon’s repair industry, DEQ launched the Reuse and Repair Workforce Development Grant Program and has awarded \$175,000 to support worker training and retention in small reuse and repair businesses and non-profit organizations across the state since 2017. Many traditional repair industries in Oregon have contracted, in some cases by very significant amounts. Knowledge and information gaps, lack of access to skills or tools and insufficient infrastructure can pose barriers to reuse and repair.

DEQ has no position on the bill.

Contact: Abby Boudouris, Legislative Analyst, boudouris.abby@deq.state.or.us or 803-971-2462