



HB 1342 (Electronic Product Repair): Risky and Costly to Washington Consumers

HB 1342 poses serious risks to the safety and security of the growing network of connected electronic products. Unfettered access to anyone to parts, tools, technical manuals, and software to a broad range of electronic products represents real exposure to the safe and genuine repair of consumers' everyday products. It presents troubling, unintended consequences including serious cybersecurity, privacy and safety risks, mass copyright infringement, and hurdles to innovation. **We urge you to oppose HB 1342.**

Specific Security and Privacy Risks

- HB 1342 requires companies who sell or lease digital electronic products to provide all diagnostic software, firmware, and tools, and provide access to tightly controlled supply chains to unaffiliated, unvetted third parties. This may place sensitive information in the hands of malicious hackers, creating a new set of cybersecurity vulnerabilities.
- Consumers, small and large businesses, public schools, hospitals, banks, and industrial manufacturers all need reasonable assurance that those they trust to repair their connected products will do so safely, securely, and correctly.
- Enabling anyone to have the digital and physical keys to these products cannot be the solution. Government should be focused on protecting consumers, ensuring repairs are done responsibly and correctly, not adding more risk.

Safety Risks

- HB 1342 includes onerous provisions regarding product design (Section 3(6)). Not only do these requirements impose unprecedented impediments to a company's development of new, innovative products, they also raise significant consumer safety risks.
- Most electronics are highly-integrated products, only intended to be dismantled by trained professionals. Improper handling of high-risk components or alterations threaten consumer safety and may lead to serious injuries such as burns, blindness, and death.
- The contractual relationships between our members and their repair networks contain quality and safety assurances for customers and employees. Nothing in HB 1342 would require that sort of assurance from an "independent repair provider."

Hampering Design Innovation

- The bill includes design requirements for digital electronic products that hamper innovation. State mandates on design for products sold nationally is unworkable.
- Design requirements stating that batteries cannot be affixed interferes with innovation in the marketplace and would hinder design features that consumers demand. For example, built-in batteries result in features such strength, thin form factor, and water resistance of phones and mandates on design, such as the one in this bill, inhibit consumer preference.

Legislation Would Isolate Washington Consumers

- No state has enacted legislation like HB 1342. Washington should resist unwarranted intervention in the marketplace with one-size-fits-all mandates that compromise consumer safety and protection.