

MARYLAND COMMISSION

on CLIMATE CHANGE

Ben Grumbles, Chair

Climate Relevant Bills Recap (Bills that passed)

EJ/CJ

HB1207	SB0674	Environment - Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities - Reform	Altering the membership of the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities; requiring the Commission's membership to reflect the diversity of the State to the extent practicable; requiring the Commission to meet at least six times a year; requiring the Commission to host at least four community listening session a year; requiring the Commission to conduct its meetings and sessions in different geographic locations in the State; requiring the sessions and meetings of the Commission to be accessible to all attendees; etc.
--------	--------	--	---

Buildings

HB0070	SB0077	Energy Efficiency - Net-Zero Homes - Contract Preferences	Requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development to give preference to applications for funding for a net-zero home from the Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Fund that will use the services of small, minority, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses in the clean energy industry, particularly those businesses that provide employment for individuals trained through workforce development programs supported by the Strategic Energy Investment Fund and the Clean Energy Workforce Account.
HB0110	SB0144	Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment for Multifamily Units Act	Providing that certain provisions of a recorded covenant or restriction, a declaration, or the bylaws or rules of a condominium or homeowners association are void and unenforceable if they prohibit or unreasonably restrict the installation or use of electric vehicle recharging equipment; requiring certain owners of electric vehicle recharging equipment to be responsible for certain costs and disclosures; requiring a unit owner or lot owner to obtain certain permits or approval; etc.
HB0630		Primary and Secondary Education School District Energy Use Policy and Study	Requiring each school district to adopt or update a school district energy policy beginning July 1, 2022; specifying the contents of a school district energy policy; encouraging school districts to set targets to increase the school district's use of renewable energy and reduce the school district's greenhouse gas emissions; requiring that a school district energy policy be posted on the school district's website and updated every 3 years; requiring the development of a certain standardized reporting template for school districts; etc.

RPS

SB0065	HB0875	Electricity - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Tier 2 Renewable Sources, Qualifying Biomass, and Compliance Fees	Altering the definition of 'qualifying biomass' for purposes of excluding energy derived from certain material from being eligible for meeting certain Tier 1 obligations under the renewable energy portfolio standard; providing that existing obligations or contract rights may not be impaired by the Act; and applying the Act to all renewable energy portfolio standard compliance years beginning January 1, 2022, or later.
HB1007	SB0810	Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard and Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems	Altering the renewable energy portfolio standard in certain years to require a certain percentage of energy from Tier 1 renewable sources each year to be derived from certain geothermal heating and cooling systems; requiring a certain percentage of energy required to be derived from certain geothermal heating and cooling systems to be from systems installed on certain property; altering the methods for calculating certain energy savings;

			providing for the regulation and enforcement of certain requirements by the Department of Labor; etc.
HB0561		Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Wastewater Heating or Cooling System	Expanding the types of energy sources that qualify as Tier 1 renewable sources under the renewable energy portfolio standard; adding certain wastewater used in certain manners to the definition of a 'Tier 1 renewable source'; authorizing energy from a wastewater heating or cooling system to be eligible for inclusion in meeting the renewable energy portfolio standard under certain conditions; requiring the Public Service Commission to determine the energy savings of a wastewater heating or cooling system in a certain manner; etc.

PSC / Permitting Processes

HB0298	SB0083	Utility Regulation - Consideration of Climate and Labor	Requiring the Secretary of the Environment to prepare a certain recommendation in connection with certain issues considered by the Public Service Commission; requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to incorporate an evaluation of the impact of certain electric power plants on climate change into the Power Plant Research Program; requiring the Commission to consider the maintenance of fair and stable labor standards and the protection of the global climate in supervising and regulating certain public service companies; etc.
HB0030		Office of People's Counsel Environmental Reform Act	Altering the maximum amount that may be charged to a public service company for a State fiscal year; requiring the Office of the People's Counsel to hire at least one assistant people's counsel to focus on environmental issues; authorizing the Office to retain or hire experts in the field of climate change; requiring the Office to consider the public safety, economic welfare, and environmental interests of the State and its residents in determining whether a matter affects the interests of residential and noncommercial users; etc.
HB0777	SB0417	Power Plant Research Program Review of Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Alterations	Altering the circumstances under which the Public Service Commission must notify the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of the Environment about an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity associated with power plant construction; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to complete an independent environmental and socioeconomic project assessment report within 6 months after the Commission determines the application to be complete; etc.

Transportation/EVs

HB0114	SB0199	Transit Safety and Investment Act	Requiring the Department of Transportation to conduct a study and make recommendations on extending Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) rail service to western Maryland; requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to incorporate the recommendations of the study into the Statewide Transportation Plan; requiring the Department to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before July 1, 2023; defining 'Statewide Transit Plan'; etc.
SB0137	HB0334	Zero Emission Bus Transition Act	Prohibiting, beginning in fiscal year 2023, the Maryland Transit Administration from purchasing buses for the Administration's State transit bus fleet that are not zero-emission buses; requiring the Administration, on or before January 1, 2022, and each January 1 thereafter, to submit a report to certain committees of the General Assembly on the implementation of the Act; requiring the report to include a schedule for converting to zero-emission buses and a plan for transitioning any adversely affected State employees; etc.
HB0114	SB0199	Transit Safety and Investment Act	Requiring the Department of Transportation to conduct a study and make recommendations on extending Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) rail service to western Maryland; requiring the Maryland Transit Administration to incorporate the recommendations of the study into the Statewide Transportation Plan; requiring the Department to report its

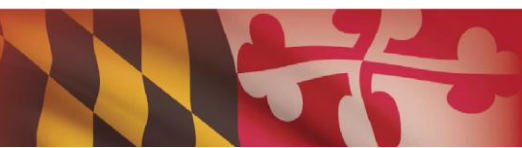
			findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before July 1, 2023; defining 'Statewide Transit Plan'; etc.
--	--	--	--

Trees

HB0991		Tree Solutions Now Act of 2021	Establishing the use of qualified conservation in a forest mitigation bank of all or a part of certain existing forests as a standard for meeting certain afforestation or reforestation requirements; altering the defined term 'forest mitigation banking' as it applies to the Forest Conservation Act to include the qualified conservation of forests; requiring the Harry R. Hughes Center for agro-Ecology, in consultation with certain units of State government and the Chesapeake Bay Program, to conduct a certain technical study; etc.
HB0080	SB0359	Department of Transportation - Urban Tree Program - Establishment	Requiring the Department of Transportation to develop an urban tree program to replace trees removed during the construction of certain transportation projects; requiring the Department to consult with businesses, community representatives, local governments, and residents in developing the program; requiring the program to provide for the replacement of trees in areas affected by construction of a transportation facility project with priority given to those affected by environmental justice issues or the heat island effect; etc.

Clean Energy Funding

HB0517	SB0319	Clean Energy Loan Program - Remediation and Resiliency	Expanding the purpose of a certain clean energy loan program to include loans for water efficiency projects, environmental remediation projects intended to remove environmental or health hazards, and resiliency projects to increase the capacity of a property to withstand the effects of climate change; adding water efficiency projects and environmental remediation and resiliency projects to the items requiring eligibility requirements under a certain ordinance; etc.
HB0419	SB0460	Economic Development - Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives	Altering references to the term 'clean energy' to be 'advanced clean energy' for purposes of certain provisions of law concerning the Maryland Clean Energy Center and the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute; altering certain findings of the General Assembly, the purposes of certain provisions of law concerning the development of clean energy industries in the State, and the purposes, powers, and duties of the Center and Institute to include certain actions supporting clean energy innovation; etc.



Didn't Pass (selected)

SB0414	HB0583	Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021	Requiring the State to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030; requiring the State to achieve net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2045; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt regulations establishing certain energy conservation requirements for certain buildings by July 1, 2022; establishing a goal of planting and helping to maintain in the State 5,000,000 sustainable trees of species native to the State by the end of 2030; terminating certain provisions of the Act; etc.
HB0008		Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative - Use of Proceeds for Maryland Healthy Soils Program	Specifying that funds in a certain renewable and clean energy programs account within the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund be used for the Maryland Healthy Soils Program; requiring that \$500,000 of the renewable and clean energy programs account be allocated to the Maryland Healthy Soils Program; and terminating the Act after September 30, 2026.
HB0832		Public Utilities Electric School Bus Pilot Program	Establishing the electric school bus pilot program to be implemented and administered by the Public Service Commission; authorizing investor-owned electric companies to apply to the Commission to implement a pilot program that meets certain standards; requiring a participating school system to consider criteria that benefit students who are eligible to receive free and reduced-price meals; authorizing certain electric companies to recover reasonable program costs subject to the approval of the Commission; etc.
SB0148	HB0066	Maryland Coal Community Transition Act of 2021	Prohibiting the carbon dioxide emissions rate for certain affected electric generating units from exceeding 180 pounds per million British thermal units; establishing the Fossil Fuel Community Transition Fund to provide grants to certain individuals and communities; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to establish certain policies and procedures for the administration of the Fund; requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to use the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to provide certain funding; etc.
HB1362		Clean and Renewable Energy Standard (CARES)	Altering the State's renewable energy portfolio standard to be the clean and renewable energy standard; altering certain legislative findings regarding and purposes of the standard; requiring certain percentages of certain energy in the State to be derived from certain clean energy sources and certain renewable energy sources in certain years; altering certain required percentages of certain energy to satisfy the standard in certain years; establishing certain qualifications for certain clean energy resources; etc.

