



2020 Maryland Legislative Session Policy Watch Wrap-up Report

SUMMARY

The 2020 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly began with new presiding officers manning the gavels with ambitious agendas to implement and fund the Kirwan Commission recommendations, address School Construction, Public Safety, and Environmental Issues. Amid the COVID-19 crisis, legislators found themselves adjusting to comply with public health recommendations to protect the public and achieved success. They focused on priority legislation, including two last-minute bills allowing the Governor power to confront COVID-19 issues in Maryland, with access to up to \$50 Million from the State's "Rainy Day Fund" to cover costs associated with the virus. After having passed a budget the Assembly adjourned early, an action occurring only once since the Civil War.

MCEC staff tracked 98 pieces of legislation introduced during this abbreviated session pertaining to Clean Energy. In summary, 15 bills pertaining to the Clean Energy Sector were returned passed, while 83 failed through withdrawal by the sponsor, receiving an unfavorable report, or failing to make it out of committee and cross over.

Of the 15 bills tracked that passed, 10 passed the last day of the session. Several bills that failed made it through the chamber of origination and crossed to the opposing chamber. However, they had little or no time to be heard before an assigned committee.

Climate Crisis and Resilience legislation accounted for the majority of energy related bills introduced. Other legislation pending this session focused on:

- Proposed RPS Alterations
- Retail Supply and Consumer Protection
- Workforce Development
- Electric Vehicle Regulation
- Utility Regulation
- Energy Efficiency and Building Performance
- School Construction

Among the bills passed were initiatives enabling local governments to create Resilience Authorities and legislation to expand the scope of apprenticeship and training programs that may receive support through the Clean Energy Workforce Account for clean energy industry development. An initiative to increase the maximum dollar amount that the Public Service Commission can charge public service companies for costs and expenses relating to the Public Utility Fund also passed. In addition, the General Assembly passed an Administration Bill resulting from the Governor's Renewable Energy Task Force, that waives application fees associated with the construction of Renewable Energy Generation on sites perceived to be contaminated or are contaminated.

Under normal circumstances, the Governor hosts bill signings during and after the Legislative Session. Due to public health concerns resulting from COVID-19, bill signings have not been scheduled to date. For more information www.maryland.gov.

Additional information regarding MCEC's annual Policy Watch can be viewed here: www.mdcleanenergy.org/policy.

PASSED LEGISLATION LIST

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

[SB 0224 /
HB 1029](#)

Clean Energy Jobs - Workforce Development - Scope
Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: July 1, 2020

Altering the scope of apprenticeship and training programs that may receive certain support through the Clean Energy Workforce Account from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund for clean energy industry development.



[SB 0994](#)

Maryland Electricians Act of 2020
Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: July 1, 2020

Cross-file [HB 1127](#) *Held in Committee*

Altering the composition, powers, and duties of the State Board of Master Electricians; changing the name of the State Board of Master Electricians to the State Board of Electricians; establishing a low-voltage electrician license as a State license to be awarded to qualifying electricians; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt regulations to establish the education requirements and qualifications for a State apprentice electrician license and a State-registered apprentice electrician license; etc.

CLIMATE CRISIS & RESILIENCE

[SB 0457 /
HB 0539](#)

Local Governments - Resilience Authorities - Authorization
Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: July 1, 2020

Authorizing a local government to create a Resilience Authority by local law; specifying certain requirements for the adoption of a local law establishing an Authority; specifying the powers that a local government may grant an Authority; authorizing an Authority to issue certain bonds for certain purposes; authorizing a local government to devote certain revenues of the local government to certain operations and projects of an Authority; etc.

RETAIL SUPPLY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

[SB 0603 /
HB 0928](#)

Public Service Commission - Electricity and Gas Suppliers - Training and Educational Program
Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: October 1, 2020

Requiring the Public Service Commission to develop a training and educational program for certain licensed energy suppliers; requiring the Commission to develop the program in consultation with interested stakeholders, including electricity suppliers and gas suppliers; requiring designated representatives to demonstrate a thorough understanding of certain Commission regulations; requiring the Commission to conduct an examination at the conclusion of training and provide certification on a satisfactory score; etc.

UTILITY REGULATION

[SB 0676](#)

Public Service Commission - Public Utility Regulation Fund – Cap
Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: June 1, 2020

Increasing, from 0.17% to 0.25%, the maximum that may be charged to certain public service companies for a State fiscal year to reimburse the Public Service Commission for certain costs and expenses.

[HB 0102](#)

Public Service Commission - Public Utility Regulation Fund – Cap
Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: June 1, 2020

Increasing, from .17% to .25%, the maximum that may be charged to certain public service companies for a State fiscal year to reimburse the Public Service Commission for certain costs and expenses.



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[HB 0999](#)

Member-Regulated Cooperatives - Establishment (Rural Broadband for the Eastern Shore Act of 2020)

Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: Upon enactment

Cross-file [SB 0540](#) Held in Committee

Establishing a process for a cooperative to operate as a member-regulated cooperative in a certain area; specifying that the Public Service Commission does not have jurisdiction over a member-regulated cooperative, subject to certain exceptions; prohibiting a member-regulated cooperative from exercising a certain power of condemnation for the sole purpose of providing broadband Internet service; specifying certain provisions of law that apply to a member-regulated cooperative; etc.

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

[HB 0001](#)

Built to Learn Act of 2020

Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Dates: July 1, 2020, July 1, 2022, July 1, 2026

Cross-file [SB 0001](#) Held in Committee

Requiring or authorizing, under certain circumstances, the Maryland Stadium Authority to contract for, manage, and oversee certain public school facility projects; authorizing the Prince George's County government and Board of Education to enter into a certain public-private partnership to enhance the delivery of public school construction projects in the county; requiring the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2020, to include in the annual budget certain supplemental funding to be used for certain educational purposes; etc.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE REGULATION

[HB 0232](#)

Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council - Reporting, Membership, and Sunset Extension

Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: June 1, 2020

Altering the deadlines for the interim and final reporting requirements for the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council; altering the membership of the Council by adding one representative of an electric vehicle driver advocacy organization instead of the Baltimore Electric Vehicle Initiative and two, instead of one, representative of the environmental community; and extending until June 30, 2026, the termination date for the Council.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND BUILDING PERFORMANCE

[HB 0980](#)

Income Tax – Energy Storage Tax Credit – Alterations

Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: July 1, 2020

Cross-file [SB 0775](#) Held in Committee

Defining "taxpayer" as the owner of residential or commercial property who purchases and installs an energy storage system or an individual that owns or pays for the installation of an energy storage system that supplies energy for use on a residential or commercial property; providing a credit against the State income tax for the costs of installing an energy storage system; increasing from \$75,000 to \$150,000 the maximum tax credit certificate that may be issued for the installation of an energy storage system on certain property; etc.

ADMINISTRATION BILLS

[SB 0007](#)

Maryland Green Building Council-Membership

Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: October 1, 2020

Altering the membership of the Maryland Green Building Council by removing the Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the Secretary's designee, as a member and substituting the Secretary of Labor, or the Secretary's designee, as a member.



SB 0281

Renewable Energy Development and Siting (REDS) – Evaluations and Tax and Fee Exemptions

Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: October 1, 2020

Cross-file [HB 0336](#) Held in Committee

Requiring the Department of the Environment to waive certain application fees for applicants intending to use certain contaminated properties for clean or renewable electrical generation sites under certain circumstances; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; requiring that the owner of a certain eligible property that wants to change the use of the eligible property be liable for certain fees waived under the Act under certain circumstances; etc.

HB 0133

Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program - Deployed Military Personnel – Exemption

Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: October 1, 2020

Providing that the Department of General Services is responsible for monitoring the status of certain energy performance contracts and reporting on that status to the Board of Public Works annually; requiring a primary procurement unit to consult with the Department before issuing a request for proposals for an energy performance contract; requiring the Department to review certain proposed requests for proposals for energy performance contracts; etc.

HB 0662

Department of General Services - Energy Consumption Goals and Energy Performance Contracts

Returned Passed / Enacted without the Governor's Signature

Effective Date: July 1, 2020

Repealing a requirement that the Department of General Services cooperate with the Maryland Energy Administration when projecting certain costs and performing a certain analysis during a certain phase of the renovation or construction of certain State buildings; repealing a requirement that the Department cooperate with the Administration in setting standards for certain energy performance indices; etc.

POLLUTION AND WASTE REDUCTION

SB 0300

Pesticides - Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition

Returned Passed / Vetoed by the Governor

Effective Date: July 1, 2020

Cross-file [HB 0229](#) Passed the House, Crossed to Senate- Held in Committee

Prohibiting the use of chlorpyrifos in the State, including insecticides containing chlorpyrifos and seeds treated with chlorpyrifos; and requiring the Department of Agriculture, with existing budgeted resources, to provide to farmers, certified crop advisors, and pesticide applicators certain education and assistance relating to integrated pest management.



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POLICY WATCH

FAILED LEGISLATION LIST



PROPOSED RPS ALTERATIONS

[SB 0168 / HB 0098](#)

Electricity - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Qualifying Biomass

*Senate Bill-UNFAV Report-Finance
House Bill Held in Committee*

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, 2021, or later.

[SB 0560 / HB 0438](#)

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources

Held in Committee

Altering the eligibility of certain sources of energy for the creation of credits under the renewable energy portfolio standard; removing certain sources from the definition of a "Tier 1 renewable source"; 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 after December 31, 2020.

[SB 0677](#)

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Municipal Electric Utilities

Held in Committee

Setting the renewable energy portfolio standard for municipal electric utilities for 2020 and later.

[HB 0938](#)

Home Energy Assistance - Critical Medical Needs Program - Power to the People Pilot Program

*Passed with Amendments in Senate – Did not get back to House
Cross-file [SB 1024](#) Passed Second Reading in the Senate*

Requiring the Office of Home Energy Programs, in coordination with the United Way of Central Maryland and the Fuel Fund of Maryland, to establish the Power to the People Pilot Program on or before July 1, 2021 to expand access to the Critical Medical Need Program; requiring the Pilot Program to provide training for certain individuals to serve as navigators under the Critical Medical Needs Program; requiring the United Way of Central Maryland to develop a certain screening intake process; etc.

[SB 0890 / HB 1349](#)

Clean Energy Attribute Credits and Procurement

*Senate Bill-Held in Committee
House Bill-UNFAV Report-ECM*

Establishing a clean energy attribute credit standard for certain purposes; repealing certain provisions relating to the renewable energy portfolio standard; stating certain findings of the General Assembly; stating certain policies of the State regarding certain energy sources and markets; requiring the Public Service Commission to appoint an independent administrator for certain purposes with certain qualifications and certain duties; providing for the term and reappointment of the independent administrator; etc.

[SB 1032](#)

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Hydroelectric Power

Hearing Canceled

Altering from 30 to 60 megawatts the capacity of certain hydroelectric power plants in the definition of a Tier 1 renewable source for the renewable energy portfolio standard; and extending the renewable energy portfolio standard percentage derived from Tier 2 renewable sources.

[HB 0494](#)

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Solar Energy - Municipal Electric Utilities

UNFAV Report-ECM

Altering the percentage, to 2.5% in 2020 and later, of a municipal electric utility's renewable energy portfolio standard that must be derived from solar energy.

[HB 0179](#)

Maryland Recycling Act - Recyclable Materials and Resource Recovery Facilities – Alterations

UNFAV Report-E&T

Altering the definition of "recyclable materials" under the Maryland Recycling Act to exclude incinerator ash; and repealing the authority of a county to utilize a resource recovery facility to meet 5% of the waste reduction required to be achieved through recycling in the county's recycling plan.



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SOLAR

SB 0315 / HB 0561

Electric Industry - Community Choice Energy

Senate Bill- Held in Committee

House Bill passed the House-crossed to Senate-Held in Committee

Applying certain laws regarding net energy metering and community solar generating systems to customers served by a community choice aggregator; repealing a provision that prohibits a county or municipal corporation from acting as an aggregator under certain circumstances; establishing a process by which, beginning October 1, 2021, a county or municipal corporation or group of counties or municipal corporations may form or join a community choice aggregator; etc.

SB 0559 / HB 0418

Frederick County - Solar Energy - Municipal Electric Utilities

Senate Bill-Held in Committee

House Bill-UNFAV Report-ECM

Altering to 2.5% the percentage of the renewable energy portfolio standard that must be derived from solar energy for a municipal electric utility in Frederick County.

SB 0954 / HB 1106

Property Tax - Solar Energy Systems

Held in Committee

Establishing certain solar energy property as a subclass of personal property; providing that the county tax rate applicable to certain solar energy property may be a different rate from the county tax rate applicable to other personal property, subject to a certain limitation; exempting personal property that is a certain community solar energy generating system from a county or municipal corporation property tax; etc.

HB 0165

Solar Photovoltaic Recycling

UNFAV Report-ECM

Establishing a solar photovoltaic recycling fee; requiring a person installing a solar electric generating facility in the State to pay the fee beginning October 1, 2020; establishing the Solar Photovoltaic Recycling Fund; requiring 20% of the first sale price of each renewable energy credit sold to be deposited into the Fund; providing that the purpose of the Fund is to provide funding for technologies and processes that assist with the recycling of solar photovoltaic systems; etc.

HB 0494

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Solar Energy - Municipal Electric Utilities

UNFAV Report-ECM

Altering the percentage, to 2.5% in 2020 and later, of a municipal electric utility's renewable energy portfolio standard that must be derived from solar energy.

HB 1472

Baltimore City - Solar Panels on Commercial and Residential Structures - Prohibition on Limitation

Held in Committee

Prohibiting the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City from limiting the installation of solar panels on the roofs of commercial or residential structures.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SB 0133 / HB 0769

Education - High School Students - Graduation and Attendance Credit for Vocational Training

Senate Bill-UNFAV Report-EHEA

House Bill-UNFAV Report-Withdrawn-W&M

Authorizing a county board of education to award credit to a high school student toward a high school diploma or a postsecondary credential, or both, for one vocational course per semester in a career and technical education program approved by the county board; and authorizing a county board to count toward high school attendance the time a high school student spends during vocational training in a career and technical education program approved by the county board.

SB 0656 / HB 0531

Utility Regulation - Consideration of Climate and Labor

Held in Committee

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.



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SB 0785 / HB 1218

Maryland Department of Labor - Clean Energy Workforce Account – Grants

Senate Bill-UNFAV Report-Withdrawn-Finance

House Bill-Hearing Canceled

Requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to administer the Clean Energy Workforce Account; requiring the Department to award grants from the Account in accordance with certain provisions of law; requiring the Department to develop certain application guidelines; and requiring the Department, in developing the application guidelines, to provide opportunity for certain individuals involved with certain programs to review and comment on the guidelines and incorporate certain comments into the guidelines.

SB 0991

Apprenticeship and Training Council – Journeyworker–Apprentice Ratios – Electrical Craft or Trade

Held in Committee

Requiring the Apprenticeship and Training Council, on or before October 1, 2021, to adopt regulations establishing a certain ratio of journeyworkers to apprentices employed in the electrical craft or trade; prohibiting the Council from establishing a ratio of less than a certain amount; requiring an employer in the electrical craft or trade to comply with certain regulations; requiring the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to investigate a certain suspected violation under certain circumstances; etc.

HB 1549

Baltimore City - Green Career Gender and Minority Empowerment and Training Pilot Program

UNFAV Report-Withdrawn-E&T

Requiring the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City to establish, subject to the availability of funds, the Green Career Gender and Minority Empowerment and Training Pilot Program on or before January 1, 2021, to encourage young women and minorities to pursue green careers; requiring the Mayor and City Council to take certain actions under the Program; authorizing the Mayor and City Council to coordinate with fiscal sponsors; etc.

CLIMATE CRISIS & RESILIENCE

SB 0460 / HB 0614

State Government - Office of the Environmental and Natural Resources Ombudsman – Establishment (Environmental Accountability and Transparency Act)

Senate Bill passed-crossed to House- Held in Committee

House Bill-Held in Committee

Establishing the Office of the Environmental and Natural Resources Ombudsman; requiring the Ombudsman to have the ability to analyze environmental and natural resource-related data and communicate effectively with State agencies and the public; providing for the appointment, qualifications, term, and salary of the Ombudsman; requiring the Ombudsman to receive and process complaints involving suspected environmental and natural resources violations in a certain manner; etc.

SB 0721

Emergency Management - Chief Resilience Officer - Appointment and Duties

Held in Committee

Requiring the Director of the Maryland Emergency Management Agency to appoint a Chief Resilience Officer to be responsible for coordinating State and local efforts to build resilience to risks identified in the Maryland Hazard Mitigation Plan; providing that the Chief Resilience Officer serves at the pleasure of the Director; establishing additional duties of the Chief Resilience Officer as identification of funding streams and technical assistance and working with leaders of vulnerable industries; requiring a certain report; etc.

SB 0722

Clean Energy Loan Program - Environmental Remediation and Resiliency Projects

Held in Committee

Expanding the purpose of a certain clean energy loan program; providing loans to certain property owners for environmental remediation projects intended to remove environmental or health hazards; providing loans for resiliency projects to increase the capacity of a structure or infrastructure to withstand natural disasters and the effects of climate change; etc.

SB 0737 / HB 1520

Sustainable Maryland Program Fund – Establishment Establishing the Sustainable Maryland

Senate Bill passed Senate-crossed to House-Held in Committee

House Bill- Held in Committee

Program Fund to expand and enhance Sustainable Maryland's promotion and support of communities in the State in the effort to realize environmental, economic, and social sustainability; specifying that the Fund may be used for educating communities in the development of strategies to achieve green community certification; requiring, beginning with fiscal year 2022, the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$750,000 to the Fund; etc.



SB 0739 / HB 1426

Economic Development - Advanced Clean Energy and Clean Energy Innovation Investments and Initiatives

Held in Committee

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.

SB 0912 / HB 1543

Environment - Climate Crisis and Education Act

Held in Committee

Establishing a Climate Crisis Initiative in the Department of the Environment for certain purposes; requiring the Secretary of the Environment to administer certain schedules of greenhouse gas pollution fees; requiring the Secretary to delegate certain collection and benefit functions to the Comptroller; requiring the Comptroller to carry out certain functions; requiring the collection of a certain greenhouse gas pollution fee on certain fuels for certain purposes; etc.

HB 0517

Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights

UNFAV Report-Withdrawn-E&T

Proposing an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to establish that every person has the right to a certain clean and healthy environment; establishing that every person has the right to intervene in an action brought by the State or a political subdivision of the State to protect certain rights; prohibiting the State or a political subdivision of the State from causing diminution of or degradation to the State's natural resources; submitting the amendment to the qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection; etc.

HB 0689

Maryland Environmental Policy Act - Consistency With National Environmental Policy Act

Held in Committee

Requiring that certain methods and procedures adopted by State agencies be consistent with the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act as the regulations existed on January 1, 2020; requiring that an environmental effects report meet the requirements of the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act as the regulations existed on January 1, 2020; providing for a certain contingency; etc.

HB 0866

General Assembly - Environmental Impact Statements - Pilot Program

Held in Committee

Prohibiting certain subcommittees of certain standing committees of the General Assembly from recommending an action on a bill unless an environmental impact statement accompanies the bill; authorizing a certain subcommittee to waive the environmental impact statement requirement under certain circumstances; requiring a certain subcommittee to ask the Department of Legislative Services to prepare a certain environmental impact statement on referral of a bill to the subcommittee; etc.

HB 0896

Environment - Statewide Green Business Certification Program - Establishment

Passed the House-crossed to Senate-Held in Committee

Requiring the Department of the Environment to establish and administer a statewide green business certification program on or before July 1, 2022; requiring the green business certification program to recognize businesses operating in a way that reduces their environmental footprint and to provide consumers with information how to identify those businesses; requiring the Department to establish the green business certification program to conform with the Montgomery County Green Business Certification Program; etc.

HJ 0001

Declaration of a Climate Emergency and Implementation of a Climate Mobilization Effort

Held in Committee

Declaring that a climate and ecological emergency threatens the State, the nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world; committing the State to a statewide climate mobilization effort to reverse global warming and the current ecological crisis, end statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, draw down carbon from the atmosphere, and accelerate the development and implementation of adaptation and resilience strategies; etc.

RETAIL SUPPLY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

SB 0529

Public Service Commission - Electric Companies and Electric Cooperatives – Customer Identification

UNFAV Report-Finance-Withdrawn

Requiring the Public Service Commission to adopt regulations requiring electric companies and electric cooperatives to adopt a method for an electricity supplier enrolling a certain customer to provide certain information to adequately identify the customer without using the customer's account number; requiring the regulations to require that a certain customer enrolling with an electricity supplier may offer certain information as proof of identity under certain circumstances; etc.

SB 0681

Electricity Suppliers and Gas Suppliers - Consumer Protections

Held in Committee

Authorizing the Office of People's Counsel to investigate and request certain documents from an electricity supplier or a gas supplier under certain circumstances; requiring the Office of People's Counsel to have a reasonable basis before initiating a certain investigation; requiring an electricity supplier or a gas supplier to provide certain written responses and documents to the Office of People's Counsel under certain circumstances; etc.

SB 0685

Electricity and Gas - Energy Suppliers - Assisted Customers

Held in Committee

Prohibiting a retail electricity or natural gas supplier from knowingly enrolling a certain residential customer with or submitting an enrollment to change the customer's electricity supplier to a competitive supplier if the customer had received certain financial assistance in the preceding 12 months; requiring an electric company to confirm certain matters in its records at a certain time; requiring an electric company to reject a certain enrollment or change request under certain circumstances; etc.

SB 0686 / HB 0260

Residential Electricity and Gas Supply Billing Information

Senate Bill-UNFAV Report-Finance

House Bill passed, crossed to Senate, Held in Committee

Requiring certain persons to submit to the Public Service Commission beginning July 1, 2021, monthly reports containing detailed billing information on the supply of electricity and gas to certain residential customers; requiring certain initial reports to include information from the previous 12 months; providing for the required contents of each report; requiring certain information to be organized by low-income customers and all other customers; requiring the Commission to make each report available to certain persons; etc.

HB 0408

Public Utilities - Gas Service Regulator Safety (Flower Branch Act)

Passed the House, crossed to Senate, Held in Committee

Requiring that any gas service newly installed at an occupied structure may have a gas service regulator installed only outside the structure; requiring an existing interior gas service regulator to be relocated outside whenever a gas service line, meter, or regulator is replaced; requiring an existing interior gas service regulator servicing a multifamily structure to be relocated outside on or before October 1, 2025; etc.

HB 0886

Electric Companies - Billing Information

FAV Report – ECM – Special Ordered before second reading could pass

Requiring an electric company to provide to a retail electricity customer on request the historic usage and billing information for not less than the preceding 12 months; and providing that the electric company must make the information available in a certain manner.

HB 1065

Public Service Companies and Contractors - Customer Protection - Personal Information

Held in Committee

Prohibiting a public service company and a contractor from sharing, disclosing, or otherwise making accessible to a third party a customer's personal information, subject to a certain exception; prohibiting a public service company and a contractor from selling a customer's personal information; requiring each public service company and contractor to use reasonable security procedures and practices to protect a customer's personal information from certain unauthorized actions; etc.

HB 1601

Gas and Electric Companies - Deposit Charges

Held in Committee

Prohibiting a gas company or an electric company from imposing a certain deposit requirement on customers who are at least 65 years old and have an annual income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level; prohibiting a gas company or an electric company from terminating certain service for failure to pay all or part of a deposit under certain circumstances; and providing for the application of the Act.



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UTILITY REGULATION

SB 0016

Business Occupations and Professions - Master Electricians Guaranty Fund – Establishment

Held in Committee

Requiring the State Board of Master Electricians to establish a Master Electricians Guaranty Fund; requiring the State Board to maintain the Fund at a level of \$250,000, submit a certain report, deposit certain money into the Fund, and administer the Fund; requiring applicants for a State license to provide electrical services to pay a \$100 fee into the Fund; requiring the State Board to charge State licensees an additional \$50 fee if the Fund falls below the \$250,000 level; limiting awards from the Fund to \$20,000 per claimant; etc.

SB 0538 / HB 1214

Public Service Commission - Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Preservation of Environmental Quality and the Climate

Senate Bill- Held in Committee

House Bill-Hearing Canceled

Requiring the Public Service Commission to give due consideration to the effect of a generating station, overhead transmission line, or qualified generator lead line on the preservation of environmental quality and the climate before taking final action on an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

SB 0578 / HB 1014

Electricity - Considerations for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Overhead Transmission Lines

Senate Bill- Held in Committee

House Bill-UNFAV Report-ECM

Requiring the Public Service Commission to take final action on an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity only after due consideration certain factors including whether the applicant's design prioritizes the use or upgrading of existing infrastructure; prohibiting the construction of an overhead transmission line that is aligned with and within 1 mile of a conservation easement unless there is a certain showing of good cause; and providing for the prospective application of the Act.

SB 0741 / HB 1390

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity - Electric Facilities - Study and Procedures

Held in Committee

Requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to require the Department of Natural Resources, within 60 days of the filing of a certain application with the Public Service Commission, to complete an independent environmental and socioeconomic project assessment report and any other additional required study; requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of the Environment to forward certain information to the Public Service Commission in accordance with a certain procedural schedule adopted by the Commission; etc.

SB 1011 / HB 1048

Public Utilities - Investor-Owned Utilities - Prevailing Wage

Senate Bill passed second reading in Senate

House Bill-Held in Committee

Requiring certain investor-owned gas or electric companies to require certain contractors and subcontractors to pay their employees not less than the prevailing wage rate for certain projects involving the construction, reconstruction, installation, demolition, restoration, or alteration of an underground gas or electric infrastructure of the company, and any related traffic control activities.

HB 1207

Electric Companies – Conduit Installation – Single-Family Detached Developments

Held in Committee

Prohibiting an electric company from requiring builders or developers of certain developments to install conduit required to extend an electric company's distribution system to the development, at the builder's or developer's own expense; and providing for the termination of the Act.

SB 0835 / HB 1034

County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act

Senate Bill-Held in Committee

House Bill-UNFAV Report-ECM

Authorizing a certain county or municipality, after giving 60 days written notice to the electric company and the Public Service Commission, to convert its street lighting service to a certain alternative-energy-only tariff, submit a request to acquire certain street lighting equipment from the electric company, and enter into an agreement to purchase electricity for a certain use from any available electricity supplier under certain circumstances; etc.



2020 MARYLAND
POLICY WATCH

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

[SB 0592 / HB 1370](#)

State-Funded Construction and Major Renovation Projects - Solar Panels – Requirement

Held in Committee

Requiring the State, for certain construction projects and major renovation projects proposed after December 31, 2020, to require that the project be designed, engineered, and constructed in a manner that allows the roof to withstand the weight of solar panels; requiring certain construction projects and major renovation projects to include the placement of the maximum number of solar panels for which the project was designed; requiring the Maryland Green Building Council to provide certain recommendations; etc.

[SB 0655 / HB 1636](#)

High Performance and Green Buildings - Community Colleges and Public Schools - Repeal of Requirements and Guidelines

Held in Committee

Repealing the requirement that the construction and renovation of certain community college buildings be done in a manner that makes the buildings high performance buildings; repealing the requirement to establish a process to allow a community college to obtain a waiver from the high performance buildings requirement; and repealing a requirement that the Maryland Green Building Council develop guidelines for new public school buildings to achieve a LEED Silver or comparable rating without requiring an independent certification.

[HB 0665](#)

Public School Construction and State Buildings - Use of Geothermal Energy

Held in Committee

Prohibiting the Interagency Commission on School Construction from approving the construction of a public school unless a geothermal energy system will be installed in the school building; requiring the State to install a geothermal energy system in each State building constructed by the State; and altering certain requirements for certain standards established by the Department of General Services in cooperation with the Maryland Energy Administration.

[HB 1295](#)

Public School Construction – School District Energy Use – Policy and Study

Held in Committee

Prohibiting, beginning July 1, 2021, the Interagency Commission on School Construction from approving a public school construction project for a school district that has not adopted or updated a certain school district energy policy; specifying the contents of a school district energy policy; encouraging school districts to set certain targets in their school district energy policy; requiring that a school district energy policy be posted on the school district's website and updated every 2 years; etc.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE REGULATION

[SB 0423 / HB 0432](#)

Maryland Transit Administration - Conversion to Electric Buses (Electric Bus Transition Act)

Senate Bill-Held in Committee

House Bill passed House-crossed to Senate-Held in Committee

Prohibiting, beginning in fiscal year 2022, the Maryland Transit Administration from purchasing buses for the Administration's transit bus fleet that are not electric buses; requiring the Administration, on or before January 1, 2021, 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 plan for transitioning any adversely affected State employees to other employment; etc.

[SB 0474](#)

Vehicle Laws – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles – Reserved Parking Spaces

Held in Committee

Prohibiting a person from stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle that is not a plug-in electric drive vehicle in a parking space that is designated for the use of plug-in electric drive vehicles; requiring that a parking space for the use of plug-in electric drive vehicles have certain pavement markings; requiring that a parking space for the use of plug-in electric drive vehicles be counted as part of the overall number of parking spaces for certain purposes; establishing a civil penalty of \$50 for a violation of the Act; etc.

[SB 0734 / HB 0111](#)

Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment for Multifamily Units Act

Senate Bill-Held in Committee

House Bill passed House-crossed to Senate-Held in Committee

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.



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HB 1223

Clean Cars Act of 2020

Held in Committee

Extending and altering, for certain fiscal years, the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program and vehicle excise tax credit for the purchase of certain electric vehicles; increasing, for certain fiscal years, the total amount of rebates that the Maryland Energy Administration may issue; altering from a plug-in electric drive to a certain zero-emission electric vehicle, the type of vehicle that is eligible for the electric vehicle excise tax credit; increasing the total amount of certain credits for certain fiscal years; etc.

HB 1233

State Vehicle Fleet - Conversion to Zero-Emission Electric Vehicles

Held in Committee

Prohibiting, beginning in fiscal year 2022, a State unit from entering into a contract to purchase or lease a vehicle for the State vehicle fleet that is not a zero-emission electric vehicle.

HB 1316

Residential Construction - Electric Vehicle Charging

Passed the House-Crossed to Senate-Held in Committee

Requiring the construction of new housing units to include on or in a certain garage, carport, or driveway a certain electric vehicle charging station or a dedicated electric line with certain voltage under certain circumstances; requiring the construction of certain housing units that include certain off-street communal parking to ensure that at least one communal parking space for each 25 residential units has a certain electric vehicle charging station; requiring certain communal parking spaces to be marked; etc.

HB 1451

School Bus Purchasing – Zero-Emission Vehicle – Requirement

Held in Committee

Requiring, beginning on October 1, 2023, that each school bus purchased by a county board of education be a zero-emission vehicle; requiring, beginning on October 1, 2026, that each school bus purchased by a certain person for use under a certain contract with a county board be a zero-emission vehicle; etc.

HB 1481

Zero-Emission Electric School Vehicles – Inspections

Passed the House-Crossed to Senate-Held in Committee

Altering the length of time, a zero-emission electric school vehicle may be operated from 12 years to 15 years, unless it fails to meet the applicable school bus and motor vehicle safety standards.

HB 1587

Vehicle Laws- Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles- Reserved Parking Spaces

Held in Committee

Prohibiting a person from stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle that is not a plug-in electric drive vehicle in a parking space that is designated for the use of plug-in electric drive vehicles; requiring that a parking space that is for the use of plug-in electric drive vehicles have green pavement markings; requiring that a parking space that is for the use of plug-in electric drive vehicles be counted as part of the overall number of parking spaces for purposes of complying with certain zoning or parking laws; etc.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND BUILDING PERFORMANCE

[SB 0299 / HB 0192](#)

Department of General Services - Energy-Conserving Standards (Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2020)

Senate Bill-Held in Committee

House Bill passed House-crossed to Senate-Held in Committee

Requiring the Department of General Services to establish and periodically update certain standards for State buildings to conserve energy and minimize adverse impacts on birds; requiring each State building constructed, acquired, or substantially altered by the State to meet the standards to the extent practicable and within budgetary constraints; requiring the Department to reduce the lighting of existing State buildings in a certain manner; etc.

[SB 0740 / HB 0982](#)

Public Utilities - Low-Income and Middle-Income Housing - Energy Performance

Held in Committee

Requiring the Public Service Commission, for the 2021-2023 program cycle, by regulation or order, to the extent that the Commission determines that low-income programs are available, to require the Department of Housing and Community Development to procure or provide for electricity customers energy efficiency and conservation programs and services designed to achieve a target annual incremental gross energy savings of at least 1% per year starting in 2021; etc.

[HB 0398](#)

Energy Efficiency - Net-Zero Homes - Contract Preferences

Held in Committee

Requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development to give preference to applications for certain loans that will use the services of certain small, minority, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses, particularly those businesses that provide employment for individuals trained through workforce development programs, for loans for certain net-zero homes under the Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Loan Program.

[HB 0790](#)

Income Tax - Green Buildings Tax Credit - Multifamily Housing

Held in Committee

Allowing a credit against the State income tax for certain costs, paid or incurred after a certain date by an owner of certain multifamily housing to meet certain energy and water efficiency standards; requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to issue an initial tax credit certificate on application of the owner under certain circumstances and subject to certain limitations; prohibiting the Administration from issuing tax credit certificates totaling more than \$1,000,000 in aggregate; etc.

[HB 1364](#)

Income Tax - Credit for Energy Efficiency Upgrades - Passive Houses

Held in Committee

Allowing a credit against the State income tax for certain costs, paid or incurred after July 1, 2020, by an owner of certain residential property for certain energy efficiency upgrades and for which the owner obtains a tax credit certificate from the Maryland Energy Administration; requiring the Administration to issue, in a timely manner, tax credit certificates not exceeding certain amounts; requiring the Administration to report certain information to the Comptroller on or before January 31 each year; etc.



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ADMINISTRATION BILLS

SB 0265 / HB 0363 **Clean and Renewable Energy Standard (CARES)**

Held in Committee

Altering the "renewable energy portfolio standard" to be the "clean and renewable energy standard"; altering the eligibility of certain sources of energy for the creation of credits under the clean and renewable energy standard; removing certain sources from the definition of a Tier 1 renewable source; altering provisions relating to the intent of the General Assembly; altering and extending the minimum required percentage of energy that must be derived from certain energy sources in certain years; etc.

SB 0270 / HB 0343 **Economic Development - Maryland Technology Infrastructure Program**

Held in Committee

Establishing the Maryland Technology Infrastructure Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to facilitate strategic planning, manage a Maryland Technology Infrastructure Fund, and coordinate economic development service delivery; requiring the Corporation, under certain circumstances, to award capital and operating financial assistance from the Fund to support certain purposes; establishing the Maryland Technology Infrastructure Authority in the Corporation; etc.

SB 0276 / HB 0338 **Building Opportunity Act of 2020**

Held in Committee

Authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority, on approval by the Board of Public Works, to issue bonds to finance the construction of or improvements to certain public school facilities; establishing the Building Opportunity Financing Fund and the Building Opportunity Facilities Fund; exempting certain public school construction projects that use alternative financing methods from certain requirements; expanding certain provisions relating to financing and funding public school construction projects to apply statewide; etc.

SB 0277 / HB 0359 **Clean Cars Act of 2020 - Extension, Funding, and Reporting**

Held in Committee

Extending and altering, for certain fiscal years, the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program and vehicle excise tax credit for the purchase of certain electric vehicles; repealing the limitation on the maximum total purchase price of certain vehicles; requiring the Maryland Zero Emission Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council to issue certain reports on or before certain dates; altering the amount required to be transferred each year from the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to the Transportation Trust Fund; etc.

HB 0853 **Local Government - Clean Energy Loan Programs - Grid Resilience Projects**

Held in Committee

Altering the purpose of a certain clean energy loan program established by a county or municipality to include loans to certain commercial property owners to finance grid resilience projects; and requiring a certain ordinance or resolution that establishes a certain clean energy loan program to include certain eligibility requirements for grid resilience projects.