



**MSBA Bill Report 1 - Environment,
Energy and Construction Law**

(2024.01.20)

January 20, 2024

Construction Law (2024.01.20)

[MD - HB24 Environment - Impact of Environmental Permits and State Agency Actions](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/14 at 1:00 p.m. (Environment and Transportation) (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Regina T. Boyce (D)

Committees:

Economic Matters (House)

Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: February 14, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring the Department of the Environment to conduct a climate and environmental equity evaluation regarding the impact of issuing an approval for certain environmental permits; requiring the Department to provide opportunities for residents of the State to opt in to text, phone, e-mail, or regular mail notifications regarding any facility with a pending or final permit approval in or adjacent to the resident's census tract; altering certain reporting requirements for certain State agencies; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB96

[MD - HB78 Maryland Environmental Service Governance and Requirements](#)

Last Action: Reassigned to Appropriations Environment and Transportation (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Appropriations Committee

Committees:

Appropriations (House)

Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Appropriations (House)

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 120, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the quorum threshold for the Board of Directors of the Maryland Environmental Service; authorizing the Secretary of the Board to delegate certain responsibilities to an employee of the Service; altering the obligations of the Service after receiving a request for services and after

entering into a contract; altering the deadlines for certain audits and reports; and repealing a certain audit requirement.

Cross-filed Bill: SB293

[MD - HB101 State Highway Projects - Removal, Relocation, and Adjustment of Utility Facilities - Notification, Work Plans, and Compliance](#)

Last Action: Text - First - State Highway Projects - Removal, Relocation, and Adjustment of Utility Facilities - Notification, Work Plans, and Compliance (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Lorig Charkoudian (D)

Committees:

Economic Matters (House)

Environment and Transportation (House)

Summary:

Requiring the State Highway Administration to provide certain notices to the owner or operator of a utility facility for the removal, relocation, or adjustment of the utility facility for a State highway project; requiring the owner or operator of the utility facility to provide certain information to the Administration; requiring the owner or operator of a utility facility to pay for certain costs and damages under certain circumstances; prohibiting a certain utility from recovering through rates certain costs; etc.

[MD - HB109 Natural Resources - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation - Alteration or Removal Requirements](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:30 p.m. (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

Committee: Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearings:

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:30pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 3:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing certain persons to alter certain submerged aquatic vegetation in a certain manner and in accordance with certain requirements; authorizing a public utility company or telecommunications carrier to alter certain submerged aquatic vegetation in a certain manner and in accordance with certain requirements; and altering certain requirements related to the alteration or removal of certain submerged aquatic vegetation.

Cross-filed Bill: SB281

MD - HB117 Department of Natural Resources - Maryland Geological Survey Fund - Establishment

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:30 p.m. (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

Committee: Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearings:

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:30pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 3:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing the Maryland Geological Survey Fund to finance certain direct and indirect costs, including long-term budgeting and planning for survey projects, procurements, and equipment purchases; establishing the Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund in the Department of Natural Resources; and requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund.

Cross-filed Bill: SB305

MD - HB130 Department of General Services - State Buildings and Facilities - Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:30 p.m. (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

Committee: Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearings:

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:30pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 3:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the State's goals for reducing energy consumption in State buildings; requiring the Maryland Green Building Council to update the High Performance Green Building Program to ensure that the Program aligns with certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals; requiring the Department of General Services to identify State-owned facilities that are potential candidates for energy performance contracts; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB258

[MD - HB152 Department of the Environment - Study on Deathcare and Funeral Practices](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/23 at 1:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Regina T. Boyce (D)

Cosponsors:

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk (D)

Delegate Kathy Szeliga (R)

Delegate Terri L. Hill (D)

Delegate Ryan Nawrocki (R)

Delegate Ashanti Martinez (D)

Committee: Health and Government Operations (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Health and Government Operations (House)

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 240, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring the Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health and the Maryland Department of Labor, to conduct a study of the environmental and public health

impacts of deathcare and funeral practices in the State; and requiring the Department to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before October 1, 2025.

MD - HB155 Maryland Energy Administration - Carbon Capture Opportunity Program - Establishment

Last Action: Text - First - Maryland Energy Administration - Carbon Capture Opportunity Program - Establishment (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Jazz Lewis (D)

Committee: Economic Matters (House)

Summary:

Establishing the Carbon Capture Opportunity Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to assist nonprofit and for-profit businesses engaged in carbon capture projects or carbon capture research; and requiring the Administration to establish application procedures, provide technical assistance to participating businesses, assist participants in applying for federal and private grant funding, and publicize the availability of the Program.

Cross-filed Bill: SB384

MD - HB166 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

Last Action: Text - First - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024) (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Vaughn Stewart (D)

Cosponsors:

Delegate Dana Stein (D)

Delegate Terri L. Hill (D)

Delegate Robbyn Lewis (D)

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian (D)

Delegate Mary A. Lehman (D)

Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr (D)

Delegate Jared Solomon (D)

Delegate Jen Terrasa (D)

Delegate Sheila Ruth (D)

Delegate Linda Foley (D)

Delegate Adrian Boafo (D)

Committee: Economic Matters (House)

Summary:

Altering the definition of "Tier 1 renewable source" for purposes of excluding energy derived from waste and refuse from being eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard; and applying the Act to all renewable energy portfolio standard compliance years starting on or after January 1, 2024.

Cross-filed Bill: SB146

MD - HB210 Maryland Building Performance Standards Fossil Fuel Use and Electric-Ready Standards

Last Action: Hearing 2/14 at 1:00 p.m. (Environment and Transportation) (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Gabriel Acevero (D)

Committees:

Economic Matters (House)

Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: February 14, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt, on or before January 1, 2025, and as part of the Maryland Building Performance Standards, a requirement that new buildings meet all energy demands of the building without the use of fossil fuels and an electric-ready standard for certain buildings.

MD - HB216 Condominiums - Common Elements - Clean Energy Equipment

Last Action: Hearing 1/30 at 1:00 p.m. (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Lorig Charkoudian (D)

Committee: Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: January 30, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing certain governing bodies of a condominium to grant certain interests affecting the common elements of the condominium for the installation and use of leased clean energy equipment.

Cross-filed Bill: SB206

MD - HB228 [Natural Resources - Maryland State Parks - Funds and Plan Alterations](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Natural Resources - Maryland State Parks - Funds and Plan Alterations (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

Committees:

Appropriations (House)

Environment and Transportation (House)

Summary:

Extending the date by which the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund must be expended to July 1, 2029; authorizing the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund to be used for State projects on lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources for public purposes; altering the allowable uses of funds for the initial allocation to the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund; authorizing the Great Maryland Outdoors Fund to be used for promoting outdoor environmental education in the State; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB259

MD - HB233 [Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program Climate, Equity, and Administrative Provisions](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/07 at 2:30 p.m. (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

Committee: Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: February 7, 2024

Time: 2:30pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing the Critical Area Commission to adopt regulations governing the transfer of development rights, fee in lieu payments, the assessment of and adaption to climate change

relevant to the critical area, enhancing resilience in the critical area, and environmental justice and equity initiatives; establishing certain considerations of climate change, resiliency, and equity as general principles and minimum elements of local programs; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB306

MD - HB235 [Department of Natural Resources - Pay-For-Success Contracts - Procurement Exemption](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/23 at 1:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

Committee: Health and Government Operations (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Health and Government Operations (House)

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 240, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Exempting pay-for-success contracts negotiated or entered into by the Department of Natural Resources from certain provisions of the General Procurement Law.

Cross-filed Bill: SB253

MD - HB245 [Department of the Environment - Fees, Penalties, Funding, and Regulation](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:30 p.m. (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

Committee: Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearings:

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:30pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 3:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing the Department of the Environment to charge a fee for processing and issuing on-site sewage disposal permits and individual well construction permits under certain circumstances; authorizing the Department to establish a certain fee for the Responsible Personnel Training Program Certification; requiring a holder of a license to transfer oil into the State to pay a certain fee when oil owned by the licensee is first transferred into the State; establishing the Private Dam Repair Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; etc.

MD - HB258 Renewable Energy - Customer-Sited Solar Program

Last Action: Text - First - Renewable Energy - Customer-Sited Solar Program (January 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Lily Qi (D)

Committee: Economic Matters (House)

Summary:

Establishing the Customer-Sited Solar Program within the Maryland Energy Administration for the purpose of increasing deployment of customer-sited solar energy generating system and providing grants to eligible customer-generators for certain solar energy generating systems; authorizing a third party to apply for a grant on behalf of an eligible customer-generator under certain circumstances; and providing for the funding of Program grants from certain compliance fee and allowance proceeds in the Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

Cross-filed Bill: SB416

MD - HB267 Electricity and Gas - Retail Supply - Regulation and Consumer Protection

Last Action: Text - First - Electricity and Gas - Retail Supply - Regulation and Consumer Protection (January 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Brian M. Crosby (D)

Committee: Economic Matters (House)

Summary:

Establishing an energy salesperson license for certain persons that offer or sell electricity or gas supply agreements to customers in the State; providing for the terms of electricity supplier, energy salesperson, and gas supplier licenses issued by the Public Service Commission; establishing certain licensing and renewal requirements for certain persons; providing for certain disciplinary actions by the Commission against electricity suppliers, gas suppliers, and energy salespersons for certain acts; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB1

MD - HB323 Environment - Commission on Climate Change Membership - Addition

Construction Law (2024.01.20)

Last Action: Hearing 2/14 at 1:00 p.m. (Environment and Transportation) (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Michele Guyton (D)

Committees:

Economic Matters (House)

Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: February 14, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Adding the Chair of the Public Service Commission, or the Chair's designee, as a member of the Commission on Climate Change.

Cross-filed Bill: SB337

[MD - HB345 Fish and Wildlife - Endangered and Threatened Species - Definitions, Petitions, and Regulations](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/07 at 2:30 p.m. (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr (D)

Cosponsors:

Delegate Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk (D)

Delegate Mary A. Lehman (D)

Delegate Sara Love (D)

Delegate Jen Terrasa (D)

Delegate Sheila Ruth (D)

Delegate Linda Foley (D)

Delegate Elizabeth Embry (D)

Delegate Deni Taveras (D)

Committee: Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: February 7, 2024

Time: 2:30pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring certain petitions to review the listing or unlisting of endangered or threatened species to contain certain information regarding the distribution, life and habitat needs of the species and relevant information about the status of a species; requiring the Secretary of Natural Resources to review and, if warranted, update certain regulations listing endangered or threatened species on or before July 1, 2026, and every 5 years thereafter; and altering the definitions of "fish" and "wildlife" for certain purposes.

MD - HB350 Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2025)

Last Action: Text - First - Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2025) (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Speaker

Committee: Appropriations (House)

Summary:

Making the proposed appropriations contained in the State Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in accordance with Article III, Section 52 of the Maryland Constitution; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB360

MD - HB361 Property Tax Exemption for Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Limitation on Generating Capacity - Alteration

Last Action: Text - First - Property Tax Exemption for Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Limitation on Generating Capacity - Alteration (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Carl Jackson (D)

Committee: Economic Matters (House)

Summary:

Increasing, from 2 megawatts to 5 megawatts, the limitation on the generating capacity for certain community solar energy generating systems that are exempt from personal property taxes.

MD - HB366 Restrictions on Use - Solar Collector Systems - Alteration

Last Action: Hearing 2/13 at 1:00 p.m. (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Stephanie Smith (D)

Committee: Environment and Transportation (House)

Scheduled Hearing:

Environment and Transportation (House)

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Prohibiting a restriction on land use that increases the cost of installing a solar collector system by at least 5% over a certain cost or that reduces the efficiency of the system by at least 10% under a certain energy generation level; authorizing a community association to impose certain restrictions on the installation of solar collector systems in common areas or common elements; authorizing a community association to install a solar collector system in common areas or common elements under certain circumstances; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB49

[MD - HB397 Public Utilities Thermal Energy Network Systems Authorization and Establishment \(Working for Accessible Renewable Maryland Thermal Heat \(WARMTH\) Act\)](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Public Utilities Thermal Energy Network Systems Authorization and Establishment (Working for Accessible Renewable Maryland Thermal Heat (WARMTH) Act) (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Lorig Charkoudian (D)

Committee: Economic Matters (House)

Summary:

Requiring each gas company to develop a plan for a pilot thermal energy network system or systems on or before October 1, 2024; requiring each gas company to submit a certain proposal or proposals to the Public Service Commission for approval on or before July 1, 2025; authorizing a municipal corporation, county, or community organization to submit neighborhoods to gas companies for consideration as part of a pilot system; etc.

[MD - HB433 Chesapeake Bay Trust - Authority to Retain Outside Counsel](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Chesapeake Bay Trust - Authority to Retain Outside Counsel (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo (D)

Committee: Environment and Transportation (House)

Summary:

Altering the powers and duties of the Chesapeake Bay Trust by authorizing the Trust to retain outside counsel as necessary.

Cross-filed Bill: SB329

[MD - SB1 Electricity and Gas - Retail Supply - Regulation and Consumer Protection](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/25 at 2:00 p.m. (January 17, 2024)

Construction Law (2024.01.20)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Malcolm Augustine (D)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearings:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing an energy salesperson license for certain persons that offer or sell electricity or gas supply agreements to customers in the State; providing for the terms of electricity supplier, energy salesperson, and gas supplier licenses issued by the Public Service Commission; establishing certain licensing and renewal requirements for certain persons; providing for certain disciplinary actions by the Commission against electricity suppliers, gas suppliers, and energy salespersons for certain acts; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB267

[MD - SB49 Restrictions on Use - Solar Collector Systems - Alteration](#)

Last Action: Hearing 2/08 at 1:00 p.m. (January 18, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Sarah K. Elfreth (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: February 8, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Prohibiting a restriction on land use that increases the cost of installing a solar collector system by at least 5% over a certain cost or that reduces the efficiency of the system by at least 10% under a certain energy generation level; authorizing a community association to impose certain restrictions on the installation of solar collector systems in common areas or common elements; authorizing a

community association to install a solar collector system in common areas or common elements under certain circumstances; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB366

MD - SB96 Environment - Impact of Environmental Permits and State Agency Actions

Last Action: Text - First - Environment - Impact of Environmental Permits and State Agency Actions (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Michael A. Jackson (D)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Summary:

Requiring the Department of the Environment to conduct a climate and environmental equity evaluation regarding the impact of issuing an approval for certain environmental permits; requiring the Department to provide opportunities for residents of the State to opt in to text, phone, e-mail, or regular mail notifications regarding any facility with a pending or final permit approval in or adjacent to the resident's census tract; altering certain reporting requirements for certain State agencies; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB24

MD - SB146 Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2024)

Last Action: Hearing 1/25 at 2:00 p.m. (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Karen Lewis Young (D)

Cosponsors:

Senator Arthur Ellis (D)

Senator Mary Washington (D)

Senator Chris West (R)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearings:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the definition of "Tier 1 renewable source" for purposes of excluding energy derived from waste and refuse from being eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard; and applying the Act to all renewable energy portfolio standard compliance years starting on or after January 1, 2024.

Cross-filed Bill: HB166

[MD - SB148 Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Underserved and Overburdened Communities](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Underserved and Overburdened Communities (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Alonzo T. Washington (D)

Committees:

Budget and Taxation (Senate)

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Summary:

Requiring at least 40% of funding provided under the comprehensive flood management grant program to be used for projects located in or directly benefiting underserved or overburdened communities; and requiring the Governor to include in the annual State budget an appropriation of at least \$20,000,000 for the comprehensive flood management grant program in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

[MD - SB169 Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Cheryl C. Kagan (D)

Committee: Budget and Taxation (Senate)

Summary:

Establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to provide financial assistance in the form of no-interest loans to nonprofit organizations for the planning, purchase, and installation of qualifying energy systems; establishing the Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Fund; authorizing, in fiscal year 2026, the Governor to include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the Fund; etc.

MD - SB196 Soil Conservation Districts - Small Ponds - Plan Review Fees

Last Action: Hearing 1/23 at 1:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Jason C. Gallion (R)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing a soil conservation district to recommend a fee system to cover the cost of reviewing plans for small ponds; establishing that any fees collected under the Act shall be supplemental to county and State funds; etc.

MD - SB206 Condominiums - Common Elements - Clean Energy Equipment

Last Action: Hearing 1/30 at 1:00 p.m. (January 15, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator William C. Smith, Jr. (D)

Committee: Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judicial Proceedings (Senate)

Date: January 30, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing certain governing bodies of a condominium to grant certain interests affecting the common elements of the condominium for the installation and use of leased clean energy equipment.

Cross-filed Bill: HB216

MD - SB222 State Board of Environmental Health Specialists Quorum, Examination, and
Apprenticeships

Last Action: Hearing 1/30 at 1:00 p.m. (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Finance Committee

Committee: Finance (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Finance (Senate)

Date: January 30, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: East Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Clarifying that a quorum of the State Board of Environmental Health Specialists consists of a majority of appointed members; altering the circumstances under which an applicant for licensure is qualified to take the examination by adding completion of an apprenticeship approved by the Board as an alternative to obtaining experience in an environmental health specialist-in-training program; and authorizing the Board to approve an examination provider to administer the examination.

[MD - SB253 Department of Natural Resources - Pay-For-Success Contracts - Procurement Exemption](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Department of Natural Resources - Pay-For-Success Contracts - Procurement Exemption (January 10, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee

Committee: Budget and Taxation (Senate)

Summary:

Exempting pay-for-success contracts negotiated or entered into by the Department of Natural Resources from certain provisions of the General Procurement Law.

Cross-filed Bill: HB235

[MD - SB258 Department of General Services - State Buildings and Facilities - Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the State's goals for reducing energy consumption in State buildings; requiring the Maryland Green Building Council to update the High Performance Green Building Program to ensure that the Program aligns with certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals; requiring the Department of General Services to identify State-owned facilities that are potential candidates for energy performance contracts; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB130

MD - SB259 [Natural Resources - Maryland State Parks - Funds and Plan Alterations](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/24 at 1:00 p.m. (January 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee

Committee: Budget and Taxation (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Budget and Taxation (Senate)

Date: January 24, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 3, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Extending the date by which the Park System Critical Maintenance Fund must be expended to July 1, 2029; authorizing the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund to be used for State projects on lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources for public purposes; altering the allowable uses of funds for the initial allocation to the Park System Capital Improvements and Acquisition Fund; authorizing the Great Maryland Outdoors Fund to be used for promoting outdoor environmental education in the State; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB228

MD - SB268 [Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Program - Enforcement](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the enforcement and after-the-fact application approval procedures required as minimum elements of a local jurisdiction's Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Program to apply to all critical area violations; repealing the 30-day waiting period with which the Chair of the Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays must comply before referring certain enforcement matters to the Attorney General; and expanding the authority of the Attorney General to take certain equitable actions.

MD - SB281 Natural Resources - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation - Alteration or Removal Requirements

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing certain persons to alter certain submerged aquatic vegetation in a certain manner and in accordance with certain requirements; authorizing a public utility company or telecommunications carrier to alter certain submerged aquatic vegetation in a certain manner and in accordance with certain requirements; and altering certain requirements related to the alteration or removal of certain submerged aquatic vegetation.

Cross-filed Bill: HB109

MD - SB293 Maryland Environmental Service - Governance and Requirements

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the quorum threshold for the Board of Directors of the Maryland Environmental Service; authorizing the Secretary of the Board to delegate certain responsibilities to an employee of the Service; altering the obligations of the Service after receiving a request for services and after entering into a contract; altering the deadlines for certain audits and reports; and repealing a certain audit requirement.

Cross-filed Bill: HB78

MD - SB295 Department of Planning - Inventory Responsibilities

Last Action: Hearing 1/25 at 2:00 p.m. (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearings:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 25, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Repealing a requirement that the Department of Planning prepare and periodically revise inventory lists of the natural resources of the State and certain public works and facilities.

MD - SB299 Coast Smart Council - Duties and Authority

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the duties of the Coast Smart Council to include the development of eligibility criteria, standards, and procedures for categorical exemptions from the application of the Coast Smart requirements for proposed capital projects that have been designed to include adaptation and resiliency features to prevent or mitigate damage to the maximum extent practicable; and authorizing the Council to recommend certain regulations for adoption by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

[MD - SB300 Natural Resources - Wildland Areas - Belt Woods Wildland](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing, with prior approval of the Maryland Historical Trust and after an internal departmental review, certain archaeological, salvage, excavation, stabilization, and restoration activities of historic structures existing as of December 1, 1985, within the Belt Woods Wildland.

[MD - SB301 Aquaculture - Placement of Shellfish, Bags, Nets, and Structures on Submerged Aquatic Vegetation - Extension](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/23 at 1:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Extending to June 30, 2027, the authorization of a leaseholder of certain aquaculture leases to, with prior written approval from the Department of Natural Resources, place shellfish, bags, nets, and structures on submerged aquatic vegetation, subject to certain requirements.

[MD - SB303 Aquaculture - Definition of Shellfish - Alteration](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/23 at 1:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 23, 2024

Time: 1:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the definition of "shellfish" as it relates to certain provisions of law governing aquaculture to include live mollusks and molluscan shells.

[MD - SB304 Natural Resources - State Boat Act - Alterations](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering and repealing certain definitions for purposes of the State Boat Act; repealing certain advertising and public hearing requirements for proposed regulations implementing provisions of the State Boat Act; altering the fees for manufacturer and dealer licenses, certificates of number, Maryland use stickers, and the issuance of certificates of title, transfers of title, or duplicate or corrected certificates of title; requiring that certain vessels equipped with a sail be numbered for identification; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB239

[MD - SB305 Department of Natural Resources - Maryland Geological Survey Fund - Establishment](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing the Maryland Geological Survey Fund to finance certain direct and indirect costs, including long-term budgeting and planning for survey projects, procurements, and equipment purchases; establishing the Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund in the Department of Natural Resources; and requiring interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund.

Cross-filed Bill: HB117

[MD - SB306 Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Climate, Equity, and Administrative Provisions](#)

Last Action: Hearing 1/31 at 2:00 p.m. (January 11, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Scheduled Hearing:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Date: January 31, 2024

Time: 2:00pm (EST)

Location: West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing the Critical Area Commission to adopt regulations governing the transfer of development rights, fee in lieu payments, the assessment of and adaption to climate change relevant to the critical area, enhancing resilience in the critical area, and environmental justice and equity initiatives; establishing certain considerations of climate change, resiliency, and equity as general principles and minimum elements of local programs; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB233

[MD - SB329 Chesapeake Bay Trust - Authority to Retain Outside Counsel](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Chesapeake Bay Trust - Authority to Retain Outside Counsel (January 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Pamela Beidle (D)

Construction Law (2024.01.20)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Summary:

Altering the powers and duties of the Chesapeake Bay Trust by authorizing the Trust to retain outside counsel as necessary.

Cross-filed Bill: HB433

[MD - SB337 Environment - Commission on Climate Change Membership - Addition](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Environment - Commission on Climate Change Membership - Addition (January 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Brian J. Feldman (D)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Summary:

Adding the Chair of the Public Service Commission, or the Chair's designee, as a member of the Commission on Climate Change.

Cross-filed Bill: HB323

[MD - SB339 Environment - Duck Nest Boxes - Wetlands License Requirements](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Environment - Duck Nest Boxes - Wetlands License Requirements (January 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Mary Beth Carozza (R)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Summary:

Exempting the installation and maintenance of certain duck nest boxes from certain wetlands license requirements; defining a "duck nest box" as a nesting structure located on or over water that is provided for the purpose of sheltering domesticated ducks; establishing that a duck nest box is not a nonwater-dependent project for the purpose of certain wetlands license requirements; and establishing that installing and maintaining duck nest boxes is a lawful use of private wetlands.

[MD - SB353 Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force (January 16, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Bryan W. Simonaire (R)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Summary:

Establishing the Confined Aquatic Disposal Task Force to discuss and review the overall concept, viability, and available options associated with confined aquatic disposal program and the State's

requirements and long-term strategies for maintaining functional and thriving ports in the Maryland; and requiring the Task Force to submit a report of findings and recommendations on or before July 1, 2025 to certain committees of the General Assembly and the Governor.

MD - SB384 Maryland Energy Administration - Carbon Capture Opportunity Program - Establishment

Last Action: Text - First - Maryland Energy Administration - Carbon Capture Opportunity Program - Establishment (January 17, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Karen Lewis Young (D)

Cosponsor: Senator C. Anthony Muse (D)

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

Summary:

Establishing the Carbon Capture Opportunity Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to assist nonprofit and for-profit businesses engaged in carbon capture projects or carbon capture research; and requiring the Administration to establish application procedures, provide technical assistance to participating businesses, assist participants in applying for federal and private grant funding, and publicize the availability of the Program.

Cross-filed Bill: HB155