



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS





Hot List – House

WEEK of March 15, 2011

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters is pleased to present the House version of the “Hot List” – a detailed list of environmental legislation moving through your chamber *this week*. Our volunteers will deliver the Hot List to your office every Tuesday; it will also be emailed to your office. We hope you find this weekly communication helpful and instructive as you tackle important environmental bills this session. If you have any questions, please contact Pete Johnson at pjohnson@mdlcv.org or 410-280-9855, extension 204.

IMPORTANT BILLS TO WATCH

The environmental community’s top priorities are:

	<p>HB 70/HB 72: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget Committee Hearing: Ongoing Committee Hearings in Appropriations SUPPORT</p> <p>Every dollar Maryland invests in protecting our environment saves good jobs today and creates more good jobs tomorrow. We are gravely concerned about the “zeroing out” of any environmental programs. Specifically, we must protect funding for Program Open Space, the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund and Bay Restoration Fund, and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Programs; and we oppose cuts to funding for our Agriculture, Energy, Environment, Natural Resources, and Planning agencies. As the General Assembly once again works to make difficult decisions due to the challenging economy, we are closely watching budget cuts and revenue generating mechanisms.</p>
	<p>HB 1034: Clean the Streams and Beautify the Bay Act Sponsor: Delegate Carr Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT</p> <p>Establishes a five-cent fee for single-use plastic and paper bags distributed at stores, with the proceeds to be split among the retailers, the Chesapeake Bay Trust for environmental restoration projects, and program administration and enforcement.</p>
	<p>HB 852: Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Act Sponsor: Delegate Mizeur Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT</p> <p>Would prohibit drilling for natural gas in Maryland until and unless drilling companies demonstrate that wetlands, forests, critical habitats, and existing communities would not be put at risk.</p>
	<p>HB 1054: Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act Sponsors: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O’Malley), Delegate Hucker Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT</p> <p>The United Steelworkers and environmental groups are joined in support of offshore wind legislation. The legislation will require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to negotiate long-term contracts of up to 25 years between Maryland utilities and offshore wind generating companies.</p> <p>HB 1227: Economic Development Opportunities—Wind Turbine Manufacturing Facility Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O’Malley) Committee Hearing: March 16, 2011 at 1:00 pm in Economic Matters SUPPORT</p> <p>Attracts new wind turbine manufacturing facilities to Maryland.</p>

In addition to our four priority issues and bills, we are working on a number of other bills this session. If you have bills that you would like Maryland LCV to consider for inclusion in the “Hot List” or submit written testimony for, please contact Pete Johnson at pjohnson@mdlcv.org or 410-280-9855 x 204.

UPCOMING BILLS BY COMMITTEE

Economic Matters Committee

	<p>HB 164: Demand Response Pilot Program for Charging Electric Vehicles Sponsor: Speaker Miller (By Request of the Administration) Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Establishes a demand response pilot program for charging electric vehicles by June 30, 2013.</p>
	<p>HB 933: Renewable Energy Credits—Solar Water Heating System Sponsor: Speaker Miller (By Request of the Administration) and Delegate Jameson Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Provides that energy from a solar water heating systems are eligible for inclusion in meeting the renewable energy portfolio standard and that a person that owns a solar water heating system will receive a renewable energy credit</p>

Environmental Matters Committee

	<p>HB 167: Maryland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of the Administration) Floor Action: Third Reader Passed 105-30, Assigned to Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB163: Tax Credit for Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB164: Demand Response Pilot Program for Charging Electric Vehicles Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Electric Vehicles (3 bills): HB167 establishes the Maryland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council to submit an interim and a final report. HB163 allows a State income tax credit for the cost of electric vehicle recharging equipment. HB164 requires the PSC to establish a demand response pilot program for charging electric. Requires the pilot program to include incentives for specified customer classes.</p>
	<p>HB 177: On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems—Nitrogen Removal Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB 347: Environment—Nitrogen Removal Technology—Evaluation and Ranking Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 129-7, Assigned to Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB 1107: Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2011 Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty</p>

	<p>Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Septics (3 bills): HB 177 requires septic systems that utilize nitrogen removal technology for all newly constructed building. HB 347 clarifies how Maryland Department of the Environment ranks septic system technology based on nitrogen removal and cost effectiveness. HB 1107 requires developers of sub-divisions either hook up to public sewer or install a shared waste water treatment system.</p>
	<p>HB 179: Apartment Building Recycling Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Requires owners or managers of apartment buildings or condominiums to provide recycling for residents.</p>
	<p>HB 1064: Watershed Protection and Restoration Act Sponsor: Delegate Hucker Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Requiring counties and municipalities to adopt laws or ordinances to establish a stormwater remediation fee and a local watershed protection and restoration fund on or before July 1, 2012; requiring counties and municipalities to collect the fee and administer the fund in accordance with the Act.</p>
	<p>HB 273: Natural Resources—Oyster Poaching Hearings Sponsor: Delegate Gilchrist Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 126-11, Assigned to Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs SUPPORT Complements the Governor's 2010 oyster initiative by directing DNR to conduct an administrative hearing for anyone who receives a citation for oyster poaching.</p> <p>HB 1154: Natural Resources --Striped Bass and Crabs—Revocation Sponsor: Delegate Gilchrist Committee Hearing: March 16, 2011 at 1:00 pm in Environmental Matters SUPPORT Provides for revocation of the ability to harvest striped bass or crabs upon a conviction or finding of guilt for a serious violation in that fishery at a Department administrative hearing.</p> <p>HB 1225: Natural Resources—Commercial Fishing Violations—Enhanced Penalties Sponsor: Delegate Gilchrist Committee Hearing: March 16, 2011 at 1:00 pm in Environmental Matters SUPPORT Adds a \$25,000 fine for commercial fishing on a revoked or suspended license or without a license.</p>
	<p>HB 341: Plastic Bag Recycling Sponsors: Delegates Niemann and Lafferty Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Mandates that retail stores sell alternative bags and provide plastic bag recycling.</p>
	<p>HB 57: Bay Restoration Fund Sponsors: Delegate Costa Floor Action: Passed Third Reader 138-0, Assigned to Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs SUPPORT Authorizes specified fee revenue collected for the Bay Restoration Fund to be used to pay the cost of connecting properties served by onsite sewage disposal systems to specified existing municipal wastewater facilities under specified circumstances; and establishing conditions for the funding of specified costs.</p>

	<p>HB 687: Chesapeake Bay Nitrogen Reduction Act of 2011 Sponsor: Delegate Bobo Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB 706: Chesapeake Bay Phosphorus Reduction Act of 2011 Sponsor: Delegate Clagett Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB 573: Fertilizer Use Act of 2011 Sponsors: Delegates Hubbard and Wood Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Lawn Fertilizer (3 bills): The first bill requires that fertilizers contain a percentage of "bay-friendly" nitrogen, that rules for professional fertilizer applicators reflect bay clean up goals, and more consumer education materials are distributed with fertilizers. The second bill bans phosphorus from fertilizers. The third bill establishes nitrogen and phosphorus standards for fertilizer applications, requires certification of professional applicators, and regulates sales.</p>
	<p>HB 754: Arsenic in Chicken Feed Sponsor: Delegate Hucker Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Prohibits the use, sale, or distribution of poultry feed that contains roxarsone or any other feed additive that contains arsenic.</p>
	<p>HB 718: Commercial Building Disclosure Sponsor: Delegate McIntosh Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>This bill requires relevant categories of buildings to publicly disclose their energy to use to the public, prospective buyers and renters.</p>
	<p>HB 660: Pesticides—Use, Release, Purchase and Sales Reporting Sponsor: Delegate Frush Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Establishes a centralized reporting system—for both certified applicators' pesticide use and dealers' purchase and sales of restricted use pesticides—under Maryland Department of Agriculture for access by government agencies, scientists, and the public</p>
	<p>HB 602: Environment—Recycling Pilot Program—Transit Stations Sponsor: Delegate Summers Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Establishes a pilot program to introduce recycling at Transit Stations.</p>

	<p>HB 668: Local Stormwater Charges Sponsor: Delegate Carr Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Requires state agencies to pay municipal and county governments stormwater utility fees if they own property in those localities where fees are assessed.</p>
	<p>HB 847: Environment—Permitting Process—Environmental Justice Review Sponsor: Delegate Mitchell Committee Action: Unfavorable report by Environmental Matters, Withdrawn SUPPORT Requires the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities to develop maps that identify the locations of environmentally stressed communities; and requires permit applicants to the Maryland Department of the Environment to submit an Environmental Justice Review.</p>
	<p>HB 906: Safe and Earth-Friendly Roadway Act Sponsor: Delegate Carr Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Authorizes the Administration, the Authority, a political subdivision, or an electric company to install or replace a specified luminaire only with a luminaire that meets specified requirements; etc.</p>
	<p>HB 1050: Construction Permits—Expiration Dates Sponsor: Delegate Beidle Committee Hearing: Already Heard OPPOSE Automatically extends a broad set of development-related permits and approvals until 2012. Automatically extending the life of these current permits is not necessary, impinges on local authority, and undermines both state and local efforts to set environmental and smart growth standards on development projects and land use.</p>
	<p>HB 308: Maryland Department of Transportation—Study of Feasibility of requiring the use of Electric and Electric-Hybrid School Buses Sponsor: Delegate Kaiser Committee Hearing: March 15, 2011 at 1:00 pm in Environmental Matters SUPPORT Requires the Maryland DOT to study the feasibility of requiring that electric and electric-hybrid school buses be used to transport students enrolled in public schools in the State.</p>
NEW THIS WEEK	<p>HB 831: Agriculture—Invasive Plants—Prevention and Control Sponsor: Delegate S. Robinson Committee Hearing: Already Heard in Environmental Matters SUPPORT Establishes the Invasive Plants Advisory Committee in the Department of Agriculture and requires the Secretary of Agriculture to adopt regulations relating to invasive plants.</p>

Health and Government Operations Committee

	<p>HB 4: Bisphenol-A (BPA) Free Maryland Sponsor: Delegate Hubbard Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Prohibits the manufacturing, sale, or distribution of baby food, infant formula, or other products intended for kids four and under, if the packaging contains BPA. The prohibition also includes reusable sports water bottles containing BPA.</p>
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	<p>HB 759: Healthy Kids, Healthy Maryland Sponsor: Delegate Waldstreicher Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Establishes comprehensive chemical reform by giving the Maryland Department of the Environment the authority to regulate multiple chemicals of concern.</p>
	<p>HB 910: High Performance Building Act Sponsor: Delegate McIntosh Committee Hearing: March 16, 2011 at 1 pm in Health and Government Operations <i>SUPPORT</i> Expands the 2008 High Performance Buildings Act requiring LEED Silver Building Standards for capital projects that are funded solely or in part by a grant from the state.</p>

Ways and Means Committee

	<p>HB 163: Tax Credit for Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of the Administration) Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Allows a State income tax credit for 20% of the cost of qualified electric vehicle recharging equipment.</p>
	<p>HB 528: Education—Open Space on Public School Property—Planting and Maintaining Gardens Sponsor: Delegate Luedtke Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Requires county boards of education to encourage the use of open space on public school property for the purpose of planting and maintaining gardens and requires specified schools and community groups to limit the application of pesticides.</p>
	<p>HB 795: Economic Development—Green Business Incentive Zones Sponsor: Delegate Summers Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Authorizes the creation of green business incentive zones in the State.</p>
NEW THIS WEEK	<p>HB 721: Estate Tax—Exclusion of Qualified Agricultural Property Sponsor: Delegate Afzali Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Under specified circumstances excludes from the value of the gross estate up to \$5,000,000 of the value of qualified agricultural property; providing that the estate tax on qualified agricultural property may not exceed 5% of the amount by which the value of specified agricultural property exceeds \$5,000,000.</p>

OTHER UPCOMING BILLS

	<p>HB TBD: Sustainable Energy Utility Framework Sponsor: Delegate Niemann <i>SUPPORT</i> Establishes a new sustainable energy utility framework to spur private financing for residential alternative energy generation.</p>
NEW THIS WEEK	<p>HB 1340: Natural Resources—Oyster—Sanctuaries and Poaching Sponsor: Delegate Haddaway-Riccio <i>OPPOSE</i> Prohibits the DNR from designating more than 25% of the available oyster habitat as oyster sanctuaries unless the Department conducts a public hearing during which the Department presents scientific evidence of a significant increase in the harvestable oyster population.</p>

GOOD GOVERNANCE BILLS

<p>HB 766: Joint Committee on Transparency and Open Government Sponsor: Delegate Mizeur Committee Hearing: Already Heard <i>SUPPORT</i> Establishes a legislative committee to coordinate State efforts to explore, develop, and implement open government and transparency policies for all branches of our state government.</p> <p>HB 48: State Government—Open Meetings Act—Notice and Compliance Sponsor: Delegate Morhaim Floor Action: Third Reading Passed 136-4, Assigned to Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs <i>SUPPORT</i> Requires a public body to give notice of a meeting by specified methods under specified circumstances; authorizing a public body to give notice of a meeting by specified additional methods.</p>

For more than 30 years, the **Maryland League of Conservation Voters** has been the independent political voice for the environment in our state. Maryland LCV is dedicated to making environmental protection and restoration a top priority for Maryland's elected officials, appointed leaders, candidates and voters. The Maryland LCV advocates for sound conservation policies, works to get pro-environment candidates elected, and holds elected officials accountable for their votes and actions.

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