



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS





Hot List –House

WEEK of January 24, 2012

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 Jen Brock-Cancellieri at jbrock@mdlcv.org or 410-280-9855, extension 202.

IMPORTANT BILLS TO WATCH

The environmental community’s top priorities are:

	<p>HB 85/HB 87: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget SUPPORT</p> <p>We support Governor O’Malley’s budget. 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 in challenging economic times, we are closely watching budget cuts and revenue generating mechanisms.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Fishable and Swimmable Waters by 2025 Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O’Malley), Delegate Hucker SUPPORT</p> <p>If passed, these three bills (numbers TBD) would ensure new policies and revenues for implementing our federally mandated pollution diet with proven, effective, and job-creating actions such as upgrading the wastewater treatment plants already under commitment, ensuring local governments have resources to reduce polluted stormwater runoff, curbing pollution from poorly planned development, and requiring a standard to make sure wastewater is better treated, so it can be safely released back into the environment.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Community Clean Up and Greening Act Sponsor: Delegate Washington SUPPORT</p> <p>In a unique joint venture between business and environmental leaders to reduce the amount of trash in the Chesapeake Bay and coastal waterway, this bill establishes a five-cent fee for single-use plastic and paper carryout bags with the proceeds to be split among the retailers, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and the counties. The bulk of the proceeds would be returned to the counties to target environmental cleanup, reclamation, and restoration efforts on impaired local waterways, as well as public education. Funds would also be used to distribute free reusable bags to Maryland residents, particularly elderly and low income residents. Additionally, all plastic and paper carryout bags would have to be recyclable.</p>
	<p>SB TBD: Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O’Malley), Delegate Hucker SUPPORT</p> <p>Unions, businesses, civic, faith, and environmental groups are united in support of offshore wind. The Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2012 would set up a market-driven process to incentivize the construction of approximately 100 ocean-based wind turbines capable of producing electricity equivalent to 71 percent of the Eastern Shore’s current demand. Responding to concerns expressed by legislators during the 2011 General Assembly session, this year’s bill includes several provisions to protect consumers and stimulate Maryland’s economy. The bill is modeled on an approach already adopted by New Jersey’s state legislature with bipartisan support.</p>

In addition to our two priority issues and bills, we are working on a number of other bills this session. We are still in the early part of the session; therefore the list below is not comprehensive. 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 Jen Brock-Cancellieri at jbrock@mdlcv.org or 410-280-9855 x 204.

UPCOMING BILLS BY COMMITTEE

Environmental Matters Committee

	<p>HB 1: Apartment Building Recycling Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty Committee Hearing: January 31, 1 p.m. SUPPORT Requires owners or managers of apartment buildings or condominiums to provide recycling for residents.</p>
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Appropriations Committee

	<p>HB 121: Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund and Bay Restoration Fund Sponsor: Delegate Beitzel Committee Hearing: February 1, 3 p.m. SUPPORT Proposes an amendment to the Maryland Constitution to prohibit the transfer to the General Fund of funds dedicated to the Bay Restoration Fund or the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund and submitting the amendment to the ballot for voters to decide.</p>
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Ways and Means Committee

	<p>HB 65: Repeal of Tax Credit for Coal Sponsor: Delegate McMillian SUPPORT Repeals tax credits allowed for the purchase of Maryland-mined coal.</p>
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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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