



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Hot List – Senate

WEEK of February 2, 2010

The **Maryland League of Conservation Voters** is pleased to present the "Hot List" – a detailed list of environmental legislation moving through the General Assembly *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 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:



SB 140/SB 141: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget

We must protect funding for Program Open Space, the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Programs, the Historic Tax Credit and oppose cuts to funding for our Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Planning agencies.

SUPPORT



SB 51 and TBD: Smarter Transportation Choices for Maryland

In a time of scarce transportation dollars, we need to make sure we are investing state funds wisely. This package of bills will establish smart growth criteria for funding transportation projects to make it easy for the state to choose proposals that ensure our transportation and land use decisions work together to provide more travel choices to Maryland citizens, especially for those who do not own cars; reduce environmental damage from transportation projects; and improves access to jobs. One bill will also help measure regional transportation problems and allow the state to comment on proposals of regional impact; another bill will establish accountability with a system for local governments to report how they are spending transportation funding they receive from the state; and a final bill will make the roads safer for bicycling.

Sponsors of bills TBD: Senators Pugh, Frosh, and Harrington

Sponsor: Vehicle Laws - Bicycles, EPAMDs, and Motor Scooters - Rules of the Road - SB 51 Senator Raskin

Committee Hearing: February 2 at 2pm in Judicial Proceedings

SUPPORT



SB TBD: Watershed Protection and Restoration Act

In order to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, each city and county throughout the region needs funding to invest in its community to reduce the polluted runoff poisoning our waterways. This legislation will give these local jurisdictions a dedicated funding source by assessing a surcharge on impervious surfaces to clean up their rivers and the Bay, create green jobs, and leverage additional dollars from the state and federal government for watershed protection and restoration.

Sponsor: Senator Raskin

SUPPORT

SB TBD: Comprehensive Energy Planning – Maryland LCV Priority

Requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to oversee the creation of a state energy plan that is consistent with all state environmental laws. The PSC would then review proposals from energy companies with respect to the state plan and environmental laws such as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act.

SUPPORT

In addition to our four priority issues and bills, we will also work on a number of other bills this session. If you have bills that you would like us to consider for the "Hot List" or submit testimony on, please contact Jen Brock-Cancellieri at jbrock@mdlcv.org or 410-280-9855 x 202.

COMMITTEE ACTION

SB 3: Wetlands and Waterways Program Fees

Sponsor: Senator Klausmeier

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SUPPORT

Exempting aquaculture activities for which the Department of Natural Resources has issued a specified permit from a requirement to pay application fees under the Wetlands and Waterways Program.

**NEW
THIS
WEEK**

SB 20: Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses

Sponsor: Senator Colburn

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Reduces pollution by authorizing the Bay Restoration Fund to pay the cost of connecting properties served by onsite sewage disposal systems to existing municipal wastewater facilities.

SB 29: Preparation of Fishery Management Plans

Sponsor: Senator Astle

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SUPPORT

The Task Force on Fisheries Management recommended this legislation that authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to develop fishery management plans for species in need as identified by the Department in addition to the 24 species already listed in statute. State agencies and commissions managing fisheries in the mid-Atlantic region, including Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina, already hold this authority.

SB 37: Oysters – Patent Tongs and Power Dredges

Sponsor: Senator Colburn

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

OPPOSE

Prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from prohibiting the use of patent tongs and power dredges to catch oysters in the waters of the state; providing for the application of a specified provision of the Act; and making stylistic changes.

SB 63: Transit-Oriented Development - Pledge and Use of Tax Increment Revenues - Operations and Maintenance Funding

Sponsor: Senator Currie (By Request of Department of Transportation)

Committee Hearing: Already Heard

SUPPORT

Provides more flexibility to distribute funds to encourage investment in transit-oriented development, encouraging smart growth and sustainable communities.

SB 95: Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation - Farmland Preservation Partnership Program

Sponsor: Senator Carter Conway (By Request of the Department of Agriculture)

Committee Hearing: January 27 at 2pm in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SUPPORT

Establishes a Farmland Preservation Partnership Program to preserve productive agricultural and forested lands; forms partnerships to purchase easements that meet specified criteria.

**NEW
THIS
WEEK**

SB 155: Keep Farmers Farming

Sponsor: Senator Glassman

Committee Hearing: February 2 at 1:30pm in Budget and Taxation

SUPPORT

Many farm families are forced off their land when the parents die because of the burden of estate taxes; we support full relief for farmers from this tax. But in these fiscal times, we also support partial relief for those farmers who go the extra mile and preserve their property. Keeping farmers farming promotes smart growth and protects our open spaces.

**NEW
THIS
WEEK**

SB 156: Apartment Building Recycling

Sponsor: Senator Brochin

Committee Hearing: February 9 at 1pm in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SUPPORT

Requires owners or managers of apartment buildings or condominiums that contain 10 or more dwelling units to provide for recycling for residents on or before October 1, 2014.

SB 213: Child Care Articles and Toys Containing Bisphenol-A (“BPA”)

Sponsor: Senator Frosh

Committee Hearing: February 17 at 1pm in Finance

SUPPORT

Prohibits the manufacture, sale or distribution of toys or child care articles containing Bisphenol-A; requiring the use of the least toxic alternative.

**NEW
THIS
WEEK**

SB 215: High Performance Building Act

Sponsor: Senator Frosh

Committee Hearing: February 2 at 1:30pm in Budget and Taxation

SUPPORT

Expands the High Performance Buildings Act requiring LEED Silver Standard for capital projects that are funded solely or partly by a grant of State aid.

SB 224: Solar Drying Bill

Sponsor: Senator King

Committee Hearing: February 3 at 1pm in Judicial Proceedings

SUPPORT

Removes the prohibition of clotheslines or other outdoor laundry drying devices, but would allow the condominiums, homeowners associations or housing cooperatives to adopt reasonable rules regarding the timing, placement, and manner of use of these devices.

SB 228: Incinerator Regulation

Sponsor: Senator Mooney

Committee Hearing: February 9 at 1pm in Judicial Proceedings

SUPPORT

Establishes criteria for the building, re-licensing, or re-permitting of any incinerator or waste-to-energy facility.

**NEW
THIS
WEEK**

SB 235: Mobile Home Parks - Plans for Dislocated Residents
Sponsor: Senator Robey
Committee Hearing: February 3 at 2pm in Judicial Proceedings
SUPPORT

This bill requires additional land use planning when the relocation of dislocated residents of mobile parks occurs to encourage the continuation of their community.

**NEW
THIS
WEEK**

SB 285: Sustainable Communities Act
Sponsor: President Miller (By Request of Governor O'Malley)
Committee Hearing: February 17 at 1:00pm in Budget and Taxation
SUPPORT

Reestablishes and alters the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program (a.k.a., the Historic Tax Credit) to be the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program.

UP AND COMING BILLS

SB TBD: Building Energy Disclosure
Sponsor: Senator Lenett
SUPPORT

Requires that all government and commercial building owners disclose energy use for the building.

SB 239: Fertilizer and Pesticide Reporting
Sponsor: Senator Lenett
SUPPORT

Mandates tracking and geographic mapping of fertilizer and pesticide use.

SB TBD: Clean Energy Loans
Sponsor: Senator Middleton
SUPPORT

Gives cities and municipalities the ability to loan citizens money for solar or energy efficiency projects at very low interest rates, resulting in more access for homeowners.

SB TBD: Keep Coal Ash Out of Our Water
Sponsor: Senator Lenett
SUPPORT

Prohibits certain uses of coal ash and adds stricter requirements to prevent toxic dust from blowing in the wind.

**NEW
THIS
WEEK**

SB TBD: Direct Wine Shipping
Sponsors: Senators Raskin and Pugh
SUPPORT

The bill supports sustainable farming practices and maintaining Maryland's farms and open spaces by promoting the sale of a growing agricultural product - Maryland wine. This bill would allow both wineries and retailers to ship up to 24 cases of wine to a Maryland resident per year.

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 League of Conservation Voters 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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