



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS




Hot List – House

WEEK of January 25, 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 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 70 and HB 72: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget <i>SUPPORT</i></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 TBD: Offshore Wind—Good Jobs, Clean Power Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O’Malley) <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>The United Steelworkers and environmental groups are united 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. The bill will also direct the PSC to consider long-term price stability, environmental and public health benefits, and other factors when determining approval of the long-term contracts. Satisfying a modest portion of each large electricity supplier’s load with offshore wind power will lock in stable energy prices. A second bill will encourage in-state manufacturing of offshore wind turbine components, creating much-needed jobs in Maryland.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Chesapeake Pollution Diet Act <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>In order to restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, each city and county throughout the region is required by the Federal and State Government to invest in reducing the polluted runoff poisoning our waterways. This legislation will give these local jurisdictions a dedicated funding source by requiring them to assess a surcharge on impervious surfaces. The surcharge will generate revenue to clean up their rivers and the Bay, create green jobs, and leverage additional dollars from the federal and state government for watershed protection and restoration.</p>

In addition to our three 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 202.

UPCOMING BILLS

	<p>HB 4: Bisphenol-A (BPA) Free Maryland Sponsor: Delegate Hubbard <i>SUPPORT</i> 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>
	<p>HB TBD: Arsenic in Chicken Feed Sponsor: Delegate Hucker <i>SUPPORT</i> Prohibits the use, sale, or distribution of poultry feed that contains roxarsone or any other feed additive that contains arsenic.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Distribution of Telephone Directories — Customer Opt Out Sponsor: Delegate Niemann <i>SUPPORT</i> Requires a telephone company to provide customers with an opportunity to opt out of receiving telephone directories distributed by, or on behalf of, the telephone company.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Environmentally Stressed Communities Act <i>SUPPORT</i> Requires the Maryland Department of Planning 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 TBD: Family and Farm Health and Security Act of 2011 Sponsor: Delegate Frush <i>SUPPORT</i> Establishes a centralized pesticide use reporting system under Maryland Department of Agriculture that can be accessed by government agencies, scientists, and the public.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Full Credit for Solar Energy Sponsor: Delegate McHale <i>SUPPORT</i> Ensures that people with solar panels get full credit for the power they generate, ensuring that homeowners pay only for the energy they consume.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Healthy Kids, Healthy Maryland Sponsor: Delegate Waldstreicher <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 TBD: High Performance Building Act Sponsor: Delegate McIntosh <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>

	<p>HB TBD: Incinerator Alternatives Act SUPPORT Focuses taxpayer dollars on jobs supporting renewable energy sources by explicitly prohibiting the building or expansion of incinerator facilities through siting criteria.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Invasive Plant Prevention and Control Sponsor: Delegate Robinson SUPPORT Formulates a risk assessment protocol, creates a tiered list of invasive plant species, and determines which plants will carry warning signs about environmental risk or be banned from sale.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Lawn Fertilizer SUPPORT Reduces or eliminates nutrient pollution in residential lawn fertilizers and strengthens the guidelines that affect lawn care companies and golf courses that apply fertilizer.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Marcellus Shale Hydraulic Fracturing Moratorium Sponsor: Delegate Mizeur SUPPORT Establishes a moratorium on the issuance of permits for drilling natural gas wells until there is a comprehensive assessment of the direct and cumulative impacts of hydraulic fracturing.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Plastic Bag Recycling Sponsors: Delegates Niemann and Lafferty SUPPORT Mandates that retail stores sell alternative bags and provide plastic bag recycling.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Recycling Sponsor: Delegate Niemann SUPPORT Establishes a program for recycling of specified beverage containers for bars and restaurants.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Reducing Trash in Maryland’s Landscape SUPPORT 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 TBD: Septics SUPPORT Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty Bans the installation of traditional septic systems in all new developments.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Sustainable Energy Utility Framework Sponsor: Delegate Niemann SUPPORT Establishes a new sustainable energy utility framework to spur private financing for residential alternative energy generation.</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.