



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS



Hot List – House

WEEK of February 8, 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/HB 72: Protecting the Green Infrastructure Budget Committee Hearing: Ongoing Committee Hearings in Appropriations <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: Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act Sponsors: Speaker Busch (By Request of Governor O’Malley), Delegate Hucker <i>SUPPORT</i></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. 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>

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 202.

UPCOMING BILLS BY COMMITTEE

ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

NEW THIS WEEK	<p>HB 164: Demand Response Pilot Program for Charging Electric Vehicles Sponsor: President Miller (By Request of the Administration) SUPPORT SB 179 establishes a demand response pilot program for charging electric vehicles by June 30, 2013.</p>
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Environmental Matters Committee

NEW THIS WEEK	<p>HB 167: Maryland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of the Administration) Committee Hearing: February 9 at 1 pm in Environmental Matters SUPPORT Establishes the Maryland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council to submit an interim and a final report.</p>
	<p>HB 177: Septics Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1 pm in Environmental Matters SUPPORT Bans the installation of traditional septic systems in all new developments.</p>
	<p>HB 179: Apartment Building Recycling Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1 pm in Environmental Matters SUPPORT Requires owners or managers of apartment buildings or condominiums to provide recycling for residents.</p>
	<p>HB 273: Natural Resources—Oyster Poaching Hearings Sponsor: Delegate Gilchrist Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1 pm in Environmental Matters 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 341: Plastic Bag Recycling Sponsors: Delegates Niemann and Lafferty Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1 pm in Environmental Matters SUPPORT Mandates that retail stores sell alternative bags and provide plastic bag recycling.</p>
NEW THIS WEEK	<p>HB 347: Environment--Nitrogen Removal Technology--Evaluation and Ranking Sponsor: Delegate Lafferty Committee Hearing: February 16 at 1 pm in Environmental Matters SUPPORT Clarifies how Maryland Department of the Environment ranks septic system technology based on nitrogen removal and cost effectiveness to assist counties and consumers in purchasing decisions.</p>

	<p>HB TBD: Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Act Sponsor: Delegate Mizeur Committee Briefing: February 9 at 1 pm in Environmental Matters <i>SUPPORT</i> 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>
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Health and Government Operations Committee

	<p>HB 4: Bisphenol-A (BPA) Free Maryland Sponsor: Delegate Hubbard Committee Hearing: February 10 at 2 pm in Health and Government Operations <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>
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Ways and Means Committee

NEW THIS WEEK	<p>HB 163: Tax Credit for Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Sponsor: Speaker Busch (By Request of the Administration) <i>SUPPORT</i> Allows a State income tax credit for 20% of the cost of qualified electric vehicle recharging equipment.</p>
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OTHER UPCOMING BILLS

	<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>
NEW THIS WEEK	<p>HB TBD: Commercial Building Disclosure Sponsor: Delegate McIntosh <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB TBD: Residential Building Disclosure Sponsor: Delegate McIntosh <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Building Energy Disclosure (2 bills): These bills require their relevant categories of buildings to publicly disclose their energy to use to the public, prospective buyers and renters.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Clean the Streams and Beautify the Bay Act Sponsor: Delegate Carr Panel Discussion: Waste in our Waterways, February 10, 11:30 am to 2:00pm, House Office Building, Room 142 <i>SUPPORT</i> 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: Environmentally Stressed Communities Act Sponsor: Delegate Mitchell <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>
Text updated review	<p>HB TBD: Family and Farm Health and Security Act of 2011 Sponsor: Delegate Frush <i>SUPPORT</i> 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 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, and 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 <i>SUPPORT</i> 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 <i>SUPPORT</i> 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>

NEW THIS WEEK	<p>HB TBD: Chesapeake Bay Nitrogen Reduction Act of 2011 Sponsor: Delegate Bobo <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB TBD: Chesapeake Bay Phosphorus Reduction Act of 2011 Sponsor: Delegate Clagett <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>HB TBD: Maryland Fertilizer Bill (not yet named) Sponsors: Delegates Hubbard and Wood</p>
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	<p><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>NEW THIS WEEK</p>	<p>HB TBD: Local Stormwater Charges Sponsor: Delegate Carr <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>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 TBD: Recycling Sponsor: Delegate Niemann <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Establishes a program for recycling of specified beverage containers for bars and restaurants.</p>
	<p>HB TBD: Sustainable Energy Utility Framework Sponsor: Delegate Niemann <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Establishes a new sustainable energy utility framework to spur private financing for residential alternative energy generation.</p>

GOOD GOVERNANCE BILLS

<p>NEW THIS WEEK</p>	<p>HB TBD: Joint Committee on Transparency and Open Government Sponsor: Delegate Mizeur <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>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>
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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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