



MARYLAND LEAGUE
OF CONSERVATION VOTERS



Hot List – Senate

WEEK of February 8, 2011

The **Maryland League of Conservation Voters** is pleased to present the Senate 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>SB 85/SB 87: 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>SB TBD: Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act Sponsor: President Miller (By Request of Governor O’Malley), Senator Pinsky <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>

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

Budget and Taxation Committee

	<p>SB 160: Septics Sponsor: Senator Frosh Committee Hearing: February 15 at 2:15 pm in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (Jointly Assigned) SUPPORT Bans the installation of traditional septic systems in all new developments.</p>
NEW THIS WEEK	<p>SB 177: Tax Credit for Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Sponsor: President Miller (By Request of the Administration) Committee Hearing: February 9 at 1 pm in Budget and Taxation SUPPORT Allows a State income tax credit for 20% of the cost of qualified electric vehicle recharging equipment.</p>

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

	<p>SB 111: Apartment Building Recycling Sponsor: Senator Brochin Committee Hearing: Already Heard SUPPORT Requires owners or managers of apartment buildings or condominiums to provide recycling for residents.</p>
NEW THIS WEEK	<p>SB 153: Consolidating Department of the Environment into Department of Natural Resources Sponsor: Senator Colburn Committee Hearing: February 8 at 1 pm in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs OPPOSE</p>
	<p>SB 159: Natural Resources—Oyster Poaching Hearings Sponsor: Senator Frosh Committee Hearing: February 8 at 1 pm in 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>SB 160: Septics Sponsor: Senator Frosh Committee Hearing: February 15 at 2:15 pm in Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs SUPPORT Bans the installation of traditional septic systems in all new developments.</p>

Finance Committee

	<p>SB 151: Bisphenol-A (BPA) Free Maryland Sponsor: Senator Frosh Committee Hearing: February 10 at 1 pm in Finance 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.</p>
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<p>NEW THIS WEEK</p>	<p>SB 176: Maryland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council Sponsor: President Miller (By Request of the Administration) Committee Hearing: February 10 at 1 pm in Finance <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>SB 179: Demand Response Pilot Program for Charging Electric Vehicles Sponsor: President Miller (By Request of the Administration) Committee Hearing: February 8 at 2 pm in Finance <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Electric Vehicles (2 bills): SB 176 establishes the Maryland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council to submit an interim and a final report. SB 179 establishes a demand response pilot program for charging electric vehicles by June 30, 2013.</p>
<p>NEW THIS WEEK</p>	<p>SB 304: Renewable Energy Surcharge--Retail Residential Electric Customers Sponsors: Senators Garagiola and Manno Committee Hearing: February 15 at 1 pm in Finance <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Establishes a surcharge on residential electricity consumption above a specified amount to support a Renewable Energy Benefit Fund to support residential clean energy grants and programs.</p>

Judicial Proceedings Committee

<p>NEW THIS WEEK</p>	<p>SB 261: Commercial Building Disclosure Sponsor: Senator Frosh Committee Hearing: February 22 at 1 pm in Judicial Proceedings <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>SB TBD: Residential Building Disclosure Sponsor: Senator Carter Conway <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>SB TBD: Government Building Disclosure Sponsor: Senator Madaleno <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>Building Energy Disclosure (3 bills): These bills require their relevant categories of buildings to publicly disclose their energy to use to the public, prospective buyers and renters.</p>
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OTHER UPCOMING BILLS

	<p>SB TBD: Arsenic in Chicken Feed Sponsor: Senator Pinsky <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>
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	<p>SB TBD: Clean the Streams and Beautify the Bay Act Sponsor: Senator Raskin Panel Discussion: Waste in our Waterways February 10 at 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>SB TBD: Environmentally Stressed Communities Act Sponsor: Senator Benson <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>
Language updated review	<p>SB TBD: Family and Farm Health and Security Act of 2011 Sponsor: Senator Montgomery <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>SB TBD: Full Credit for Solar Energy <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>SB TBD: Healthy Kids, Healthy Maryland Sponsor: Senator Benson <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>SB TBD: High Performance Building Act Sponsor: Senator Frosh <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>SB 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>NEW THIS WEEK</p>	<p>SB TBD: Chesapeake Bay Nitrogen Reduction Act of 2011 Sponsor: Senator Young <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>SB TBD: Chesapeake Bay Phosphorus Reduction Act of 2011 Sponsor: Senator Young <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>SB TBD: Maryland Fertilizer Bill (not yet named) Sponsors: Senators Middleton and Frosh <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>SB TBD: Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Act Sponsor: Senator Frosh <i>SUPPORT</i></p> <p>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>

GOOD GOVERNANCE BILLS

<p>NEW THIS WEEK</p>	<p>SB TBD: Joint Committee on Transparency and Open Government Sponsor: Senator Ferguson <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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