



MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Maryland League of Conservation Voters distributes our “hotlist” every week, to make sure you know the bills that we are tracking, where they are in the process, and what the environmental position is. Maryland LCV also produces a scorecard at the end of every legislative Session. Scores are drawn from all public record votes (Committee, Floor, Amendment) on every bill that we are tracking.

While not every bill is scored, any bill on our hotlist, or any vote that we communicate with you about by e-mail or through this Hotlist may be scored.

If you would like a bill considered for inclusion on the Hotlist, please contact Kristen Harbeson at kharbeson@mdlcv.org

Hot List WEEK of April 1, 2019

The Maryland League of Conservation Voters is pleased to present the "Hot List" – a detailed list of environmental legislation moving through the Maryland General Assembly. Usually, 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 Kristen Harbeson at kharbeson@mdlcv.org or 410-280-9855, extension 202.

Maryland House of Delegates

Appropriations

Title:	SB0314/ HB0136: Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2019
Summary:	Requires the Department of General Services to establish standards for State buildings to minimize adverse impacts on birds. In addition to protecting migratory birds, these standards promote energy efficiency and cost-reduction.
Status:	Already Heard – Health and Government Operations and Appropriations
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sens. Guzzone and Lam/ Del. Hill

Economic Matters

Title:	SB0249/ HB0277: Regional Transportation and Climate Protection Act
Summary:	Authorizes the Maryland Governor to enter Maryland into a cross-state regional program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector.
Status:	In the House – On Second Reader
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Lam/ Del. Korman



Title:	SB0285/HB0109: Environment – Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products – Prohibition
Summary:	Prohibiting the sale of Expanded Polystyrene products, including cups, plates, and “to-go” clam shells
Status:	First Reading Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Kagan/Del. Lierman

Title:	SB520/ HB683: Electricity-Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Pilot Program – Extension
Summary:	Requires the Public Service Commission to establish a pilot program for energy storage projects, based on the findings of the Power Plant Research Program study released in early February 2019.
Status:	First Reading Economic Matters
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Kramer/ Del. Clippinger

Title:	SB0573/ HB0650: Energy Storage Pilot Project Act
Summary:	Requires the Public Service Commission to establish a pilot program for energy storage projects, based on the findings of the Power Plant Research Program study released in early February 2019.
Status:	First Reading Economic Matters
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Feldman/Del. Korman

Environment and Transportation

Title:	SB0003/HB0117: Smart Growth Investment Fund - Supplementary Appropriation
Summary:	Public investment in smart growth is critical to recruiting private capital and overcoming some of the barriers to high-quality, compact development in existing communities. This bill would support the protection of our environment and open spaces through disincentivizing sprawl development.
Status:	Hearing 4/2 at 1:00pm (Environment and Transportation and Ways and Means)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Rosapepe/Del. Lafferty

Title:	SB0203/ HB0120: Natural Resources – No Net Loss of Forest - Definition
Summary:	Corrects definition of Maryland’s “No Net Loss of Forests” goal to include forests and accurately reflect current state coverage of forest land.
Status:	Hearing Canceled
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Young/Del. Love

Title:	SB0234/ HB0272: Natural Resources – State and Local Forest Conservation Funds
Summary:	Requires local governments to complete the reforestation obligation for which fees were paid and provides for increased transparency and accountability in fee-in-lieu programs.
Status:	In the House – Third Reading Passed with Amendments (120-15)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Young/ Del. Lafferty

Title:	SB0249/ HB0277: Regional Transportation and Climate Protection Act
Summary:	Authorizes the Maryland Governor to enter Maryland into a cross-state regional program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector.
Status:	In the House – On Second Reader
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Lam/ Del. Korman

Title:	SB0285/HB0109: Environment – Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products – Prohibition
Summary:	Prohibiting the sale of Expanded Polystyrene products, including cups, plates, and “to-go” clam shells
Status:	First Reading Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Kagan/Del. Lierman



Title:	SB0448/ HB0298: Oysters – Tributary-Scale Sanctuaries – Protection and Restoration
Summary:	Provides permanent protection of restored oyster sanctuaries in five tributaries, protecting public investments and serving as oyster nurseries.
Status:	In the House – Third Reading Passed with Amendments (97-39)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Pinsky/ Del. Busch

Title:	SB0729/ HB0735: Technical Study on Changes in Forest Cover and Tree Canopy in Maryland
Summary:	Creates a Task Force including a diverse group of stakeholders to study deforestation patterns and make recommendations to offset forest loss.
Status:	In the House – Third Reading Passed with Amendments (112-26)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Guzzone/ Del. Healey

Title:	SB0744/ HB0532: Protecting Natural Resources and Preserving Productive Farms - Commission on the Development of a Blueprint for Solar Energy in Maryland
Summary:	This emergency bill establishes the Commission on the Development of a Blueprint for Solar Energy in Maryland, staffed by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).
Status:	First Reading Environment and Transportation
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Pinsky/ Del. Stein

Health and Government Operations

Title:	SB0314/ HB0136: Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2019
Summary:	Requires the Department of General Services to establish standards for State buildings to minimize adverse impacts on birds. In addition to protecting migratory birds, these standards promote energy efficiency and cost-reduction.
Status:	Already Heard – Health and Government Operations and Appropriations
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sens. Guzzone and Lam/ Del. Hill

Rules

Title:	SB516/HB1158: Clean Energy Jobs
Summary:	Raises the amount of energy Maryland derives from renewable energy sources to 50% by the year 2030; dedicates funding to workforce development programs, especially women-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned businesses; phases waste incineration out of tier one energy sources and expands incentives for solar and wind-energy projects; establishes the requirement for a plan to reach 100% clean energy by the year 2040.
Status:	In the Rules – First Reading House Rules
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Feldman/Del. Glenn



Ways and Means

Title:	SB0003/HB0117: Smart Growth Investment Fund - Supplementary Appropriation
Summary:	Public investment in smart growth is critical to recruiting private capital and overcoming some of the barriers to high-quality, compact development in existing communities. This bill would support the protection of our environment and open spaces through disincentivizing sprawl development.
Status:	Hearing 4/2 at 1:00pm - Environment and Transportation and Ways and Means
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Rosapepe/Del. Lafferty

Maryland Senate

Budget and Taxation



Title:	HB0100/SB0125 – Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2020)
Summary:	We will oppose rollbacks to the legislative legacy of healthy air, clean water, and unpolluted lands. We must remain vigilant in protecting key environmental programs such as Program Open Space, the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund, and the Bay Restoration Fund, as well as critical resources needed for enforcement and program implementation at the Departments of Environment, Agriculture, Transportation, Planning, Natural Resources and Energy. We strongly recommend that all funding for programs funded by the transfer tax, including legislated paybacks, be allocated in accordance with the adopted formula.
Status:	Passed Enrolled – On the Governor’s Desk
Position:	Monitor
Sponsor:	Speaker/President (by request of the Administration)

Title:	HB1091: Public Private Partnerships - Reforms
Summary:	Public-private partnerships with a value greater than \$500 million shall include an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) compliant with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the required pre-solicitation report, provided that NEPA requires an EIS for the project. In addition, new measures will be required to better assess the financial viability of any proposed public-private partnership whose value is greater than \$500 million.
Status:	Hearing 4/3 at 1:00pm – Budget and Taxation
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Solomon

Title:	HB1281: Transportation - Bikeways Networking Program - Funding
Summary:	The Maryland Bikeways Program is the only program funded directly by Maryland that provides grants to local governments for design and implementation of programs to increase bicycling and walking. HB1281 will prevent the Maryland Department of Transportation from reducing and zeroing out this program in 2023 as they proposed in the Consolidated Transportation Program.
Status:	First Reading – Budget and Taxation
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Solomon

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Title:	SB0387/ HB0669: Pipeline and Water Protection Act of 2019
Summary:	Requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to conduct 401 Water Quality Certification permit reviews for all-natural gas infrastructure projects.
Status:	In the Senate – Recommitted to Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Zirkin/Del. Fraser-Hidalgo



Title:	HB0109/SB0285: Environment – Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products – Prohibition
Summary:	Prohibiting the sale of Expanded Polystyrene products, including cups, plates, and “to-go” clam shells.
Status:	In the Senate – On Third Reader
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Lierman/Sen. Kagan

Title:	HB0190: Environment – Failing On-Site Sewage Disposal System – Definition
Summary:	Creates a definition for what constitutes a failing septic system.
Status:	Already Heard – Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Lafferty

Title:	HB0272/SB0234: Natural Resources – State and Local Forest Conservation Funds
Summary:	Requires local governments to complete the reforestation obligation for which fees were paid and provides for increased transparency and accountability in fee-in-lieu programs.
Status:	In the Senate – On Second Reader
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Lafferty/Sen. Young

Title:	HB0275/SB0270: Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition
Summary:	Bans the use of Chlorpyrifos – a toxic nerve agent pesticide proven to cause brain damage to children, poison farm workers, contaminate waterways, and harm wildlife.
Status:	In the Senate – Committee Voted Favorable with Amendments
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Stein/Sen. Nathan-Pulliam

Title:	HB0277/SB0249: Regional Transportation and Climate Protection Act of 2019
Summary:	Authorizes the Maryland Governor to enter Maryland into a cross-state regional program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector.
Status:	On First Reading – Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Korman/Sen. Lam

Title:	HB0298/ SB0448: Oysters – Tributary-Scale Sanctuaries – Protection and Restoration
Summary:	Provides permanent protection of restored oyster sanctuaries in five tributaries, protecting public investments and serving as oyster nurseries.
Status:	Returned Passed – On Governor’s Desk
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Busch/Sen. Pinsky

Title:	HB0735/SB0729: Technical Study on Changes in Forest Cover and Tree Canopy in Maryland
Summary:	Creates a Task Force including a diverse group of stakeholders to study deforestation patterns and make recommendations to offset forest loss.
Status:	First Reading Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Healey/Sen. Guzzone

Title:	HB1255: School Bus Transition - Zero-Emission Vehicles - Grant Program and Fund
Summary:	Requires the Departments of Environment and Transportation to provide technical assistance to school districts on the transition their school bus fleets to electric vehicles and establishing a “Zero-Emission Vehicle School Bus Transition Fund.”
Status:	Already Heard - Education, Health and Environmental Affairs
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Fraser-Hidalgo



Finance

Title:	HB0066/SB0252: Railroad Company – Movement of Freight – Required Crew
Summary:	Requires at least two crew members on freight and passenger trains, which ensures safer transport of potentially hazardous materials whose environmental impact to local communities and waterways could be severe in case of derailment.
Status:	In the Senate – On Second Reader
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Stein/Sen. Hayes

Title:	HB0308: Public Service Commission – Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Rapid Health Impact Assessment and Final Action
Summary:	Requires applicants for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity before the Public Service Commission to complete a rapid health impact assessment on the project and report its findings.
Status:	On First Reading - Finance
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. R. Lewis

Title:	HB0650/ SB0573: Energy Storage Pilot Project Act
Summary:	Requires the Public Service Commission to establish a pilot program for energy storage projects, based on the findings of the Power Plant Research Program study released in early February 2019.
Status:	Returned Passed – On Governor’s Desk
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Korman/ Sen. Feldman

Title:	HB683/SB520: Electricity-Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Pilot Program – Extension
Summary:	Requires the Public Service Commission to establish a pilot program for energy storage projects, based on the findings of the Power Plant Research Program study released in early February 2019.
Status:	Returned Passed – On Governor’s Desk
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Clippinger/Sen. Kramer

Maryland Green Champions Award

Maryland is fortunate to have a legislature full of supporters for strong environmental legislation. Every year, Maryland LCV rewards these elected officials with high marks on our annual legislative scorecard. These marks, however, don’t always allow us to tell the full story of our greatest champions: The Delegates and Senators whose annual scores don’t truly reflect their leadership on environmental issues.

This is why Maryland LCV created the Maryland Green Champion Award, to showcase and celebrate the legislators whose leadership rises above and beyond their voting record. This high honor will be awarded each year to Delegates and Senators who meet the following standards:

- 100% score in the previous year
- Lifetime scores since 2003 (or current and previous two legislative terms) above 95%
- Primary sponsor for at least one major LCV legislative priority in previous three years.
- Not supporting LCV opposed legislation on Hot List during that legislative session.