



Maryland League of Conservation Voters
The Political Voice of the Environment

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 is proud to announce our 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 awards legislative session.

Hot List WEEK of February 20th

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 Committee

Title:	HB 150/ SB 170 - Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2018)
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 or the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund or Bay Restoration Fundas well as critical resources needed for enforcement and program implementation at the Departments of Environmental, Agriculture, Transportation, Planning, Natural Resources, and Energy.
Status:	Appropriations - First Reading
Position:	Monitor
Sponsor:	President/ Speaker (by request of the Administration)



Economic Matters Committee

Title:	HB 514/ SB 184 - Energy Efficiency Programs - Calculation of Program Savings and Consideration of Cost-Effectiveness
Summary:	Codifies key aspects of the Maryland Public Service Commission's (PSC) Order No. 87082 in an effort to ensure the continued success of EmPOWER Maryland, the state's signature energy efficiency program. Specifically, SB 184 would codify the PSC order's requirement that utilities increase their annual energy savings goal to 2% of their retail sales, as well as the order's updated cost-effectiveness criteria. Energy efficiency programs are a critical and cost-effective way to reduce energy consumption, decrease electricity bills, lower greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant emissions, and assure that energy is available for Marylanders at the lowest rates.
Status:	Economic Matters – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Sally Jameson/ Sen. Thomas Middleton

Title:	HB 773/ SB 715 - Clean Energy - Energy Storage Technology Study
Summary:	Requires the Maryland Clean Energy Center to conduct a study of the regulatory reforms and market incentives that may be necessary to increase the use of energy storage devices, as a means of increasing the reliability of renewable energy sources in Maryland.
Status:	Economic Matters - Hearing 2/23 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Marc Korman/ Sen. Jim Rosapepe

Title:	HB 1239/ SB 280 - Environment - Nonwoven Disposable Products - Advertising and Labeling
Summary:	Requires manufacturers of nonwoven disposable wipes to stop labeling and advertising their products as flushable. The wipes clog toilets, sewer systems, and wastewater treatment facilities because they include plastic fibers, some of which are released into waterways as microplastics.
Status:	Economic Matters - Hearing 3/15 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Barbara Frush/ Sen. Guy Guzzone

Environment and Transportation Committee

Title:	HB 66 - Environment - Lead and Mercury Wheel Weights - Prohibited
Summary:	Prohibits the use of wheel weights containing more than a nominal amount of lead or mercury; the use of lead and mercury wheel weights are a source of toxic heavy metals leaching into the environment.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Clarence Lam

Title:	HB 107 - Department of Housing and Community Development - Funding for Newly Constructed Single-Family Homes
Summary:	Opens up the state requirement to use capital dollars for growth inducing development to outside the 20 year old policy of Priority Funding Areas, encouraging sprawl which is detrimental to the health of the State's air and water.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Already Heard
Position:	Oppose
Sponsor:	Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (by request of the Department)

Title:	HB 110 - Electric Vehicles and Recharging Equipment - Rebates and Tax Credits - Extension
Summary:	Extends the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program until fiscal year 2020, and increases the amount that can be spent on the program each fiscal year from \$1,800,000 to \$3,600,000.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo

Title:	HB 229/ SB 186 - Environment - Polystyrene Food Service Products and Polystyrene Loose Fill Packaging - Prohibition on Sale
Summary:	Prohibiting service of food and beverage in polystyrene products statewide, and sale of polystyrene food containers and packing peanuts.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Brooke Lierman/ Sen. Cheryl Kagan



Title:	HB 281/ SB 266 - Environment - On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems - Best Available Technology for Nitrogen Removal - Prohibition
Summary:	Requires the use of Best Available Technology on all new and replacement septic systems statewide.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Steve Lafferty/ Sen. Joan Conway



Title:	HB 384/ SB 343 – Bay Restoration Fund – Eligible Costs - Expansion
Summary:	Expands the definition of “eligible costs” payable from the Bay Restoration Fund to support upgrades to sewage treatment plants that have not yet achieved biological nutrient removal. If adopted, the bill would target existing state funding to some of the most cost-effective pollution reduction opportunities remaining in the urban sector and accelerate restoration progress for the Chesapeake Bay and local waters.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Adelaide Eckardt/ Del. Christopher Adams

Title:	HB 406/ SB 317 - Clean Cars Act of 2017
Summary:	Extends the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program to the year 2020, increasing the amount of rebates awarded each year from \$600,000 to \$1,200,000. Increases the amount required to be transferred from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund to the Transportation Trust Fund.
Status:	Environment and Transportation - Hearing 2/23 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Speaker/ President (by request of the Administration)

Title:	HB 417/ SB 314 - Clean Water Commerce Act of 2017
Summary:	Authorizes up to \$10 million from the Bay Restoration Fund, at an unspecified level of priority, for use in purchasing unspecified practices for an unspecified period of time relating generally to the purchase of “nutrient credits.” We now support this bill with the amendments added by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Chesapeake Bay Commission.
Status:	Environment and Transportation - Hearing 2/22 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support with Amendments
Sponsor:	Speaker/ President (by request of the Administration)

Title:	HB 599/ SB 365 - Forest Conservation Act - Exemption, Reforestation Rate, and Forest Conservation Fund - Alterations
Summary:	Strengthens the Forest Conservation Act by minimizing an existing exemption, requiring the replanting of one acre of forest for every one acre cleared through development, and adding local flexibility to adjust the fee-in-lieu.
Status:	Environment and Transportation - Hearing 2/22 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Anne Healey/ Sen. Ronald Young



Title:	HB 602/ SB 422 - Keep Antibiotics Effective Act of 2017
Summary:	Restricts the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics for livestock and closes the FDA loophole that allows antibiotics to be used for disease prevention.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Shane Robinson/ Sen. Paul Pinsky



Title:	HB 617/ SB 29 - Natural Resources - Forest Conservation Act - Forest Conservation Thresholds and Reforestation Requirements
Summary:	Allows local governments to be more stringent than state law on conservation threshold and mitigation requirements. This is already allowed by law, according to the text of the statute and a formal opinion by the Attorney General, but DNR has refused to recognize that interpretation without this clarification.
Status:	Environment and Transportation - Hearing 2/22 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Anne Healey/ Sen. Paul Pinsky

Title:	HB 830/ SB 386 - Pollinator Habitat Plans - Plan Contents - Requirement and Prohibition
Summary:	Corrects a loophole in Pollinator Protection Habitat Plan legislations, requiring that State-mandated pollinator habitats do not use neonicotinoid pesticides, which has been shown to contribute to colony collapse disorder among bees and other pollinators.
Status:	Environment and Transportation - Hearing 2/22 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Anne Healey/ Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam



Title:	HB 924 – Natural Resources – Oyster Management – Prohibited Actions
Summary:	Ensures that existing oyster sanctuaries are protected until scientific data and biological criteria are used to comprehensively manage the oyster population. This bill does not impact or restrict the current public oyster fishery.
Status:	Environment and Transportation - Hearing 2/24 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Jim Gilchrist

Title:	HB 1239/ SB 280 - Environment - Nonwoven Disposable Products - Advertising and Labeling
Summary:	Requires manufacturers of nonwoven disposable wipes to stop labeling and advertising their products as flushable. The wipes clog toilets, sewer systems, and wastewater treatment facilities because they include plastic fibers, some of which are released into waterways as microplastics.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Hearing 3/15 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Barbara Frush/ Sen. Guy Guzzone

Title:	HB 1325/ SB 740 - Oil and Natural Gas - Hydraulic Fracturing - Prohibition
Summary:	Prohibits the exploration or production of natural gas through the process of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) in Maryland.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Hearing 2/22 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo/ Sen. Robert Zirkin



Title:	SB 29/ HB 617 - Natural Resources - Forest Conservation Act - Forest Conservation Thresholds and Afforestation and Reforestation Requirements
Summary:	Allows local governments to be more stringent than state law on conservation threshold and mitigation requirements. This is already allowed by law, according to the text of the statute and a formal opinion by the Attorney General, but DNR has refused to recognize that interpretation without this clarification.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – First Reading
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Paul Pinsky/ Del. Anne Healey



Ways and Means Committee

Title:	HB 72 - Election Law - Fair Campaign Financing Fund
Summary:	Ensures the long-term viability for the Fair Campaign Financing Fund.
Status:	Ways and Means – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Eric Luedtke

Title:	HB 345/ SB 423 - Elective Franchise - Registration and Voting at Polling Place
Summary:	Allows Marylanders to register or update their registrations on Election Day using same day registration.
Status:	Ways and Means – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Kirill Reznik/ Sen. Paul Pinsky

Maryland Senate Budget and Tax Committee

Title:	SB170/ HB 150 - Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2018)
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 or the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund or Bay Restoration Fundas well as critical resources needed for enforcement and program implementation at the Departments of Environmental, Agriculture, Transportation, Planning, Natural Resources, and Energy.
Status:	Budget and Tax Committee - First Reading
Position:	Monitor
Sponsor:	President/ Speaker (by request of the Administration)



Title:	SB 108 - Property Tax Credit - Erosion Control Measures - Nonstructural Shoreline Stabilization
Summary:	Removes outdated tax credits for environmentally harmful structural shoreline stabilization measures such as bulkheads and institute an option for local governments to enact a tax credit for environmentally friendly and resilient living shoreline stabilization.
Status:	Budget and Tax Committee – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Bryan Simonaire

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Title:	SB 186/ HB 229 - Environment - Polystyrene Food Service Products and Polystyrene Loose Fill Packaging - Prohibition on Sale
Summary:	Prohibiting service of food and beverage in polystyrene products statewide, and sale of polystyrene food containers and packing peanuts.
Status:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Cheryl Kagan/ Del. Brooke Lierman



Title:	SB 266/ HB 281 - Environment - On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems - Best Available Technology for Nitrogen Removal - Prohibition
Summary:	Requires the use of Best Available Technology on all new and replacement septic systems statewide.
Status:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Joan Conway/ Del. Steve Lafferty



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Sponsor:	Del. Christopher Adams/ Sen. Adelaide Eckardt

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Summary:	Strengthens the Forest Conservation Act by minimizing an existing exemption, requiring the replanting of one acre of forest for every one acre cleared through development, and adding local flexibility to adjust the fee-in-lieu.
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Summary:	Allows Marylanders to register or update their registrations on Election Day using same day registration.
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Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Paul Pinsky/ Del. Kirill Reznik

Title:	SB 740/ HB 1325 - Oil and Natural Gas - Hydraulic Fracturing - Prohibition
Summary:	Prohibits the exploration or production of natural gas through the process of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) in Maryland.
Status:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs - Hearing 2/28 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Robert Zirkin/ Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo



Finance Committee

Title:	SB 184/ HB 514 - Energy Efficiency Programs - Calculation of Program Savings and Consideration of Cost-Effectiveness
Summary:	Codifies key aspects of the Maryland Public Service Commission's (PSC) Order No. 87082 in an effort to ensure the continued success of EmPOWER Maryland, the state's signature energy efficiency program. Specifically, SB 184 would codify the PSC order's requirement that utilities increase their annual energy savings goal to 2% of their retail sales, as well as the order's updated cost-effectiveness criteria. Energy efficiency programs are a critical and cost-effective way to reduce energy consumption, decrease electricity bills, lower greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant emissions, and assure that energy is available for Marylanders at the lowest rates.
Status:	Finance – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Thomas Middleton / Del. Sally Jameson

Title:	SB 315/ HB 406 - Clean Cars Act of 2017
Summary:	Extends the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program to the year 2020, increasing the amount of rebates awarded each year from \$600,000 to \$1,200,000. Increases the amount required to be transferred from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund to the Transportation Trust Fund.
Status:	Finance – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	President/ Speaker (by request of the Administration)

Title:	SB 715/ HB 773 - Clean Energy - Energy Storage Technology Study
Summary:	Requires the Maryland Clean Energy Center to conduct a study of the regulatory reforms and market incentives that may be necessary to increase the use of energy storage devices, as a means of increasing the reliability of renewable energy sources in Maryland.
Status:	Finance - Hearing 3/07 at 1p.m.
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Jim Rosapepe/ Del. Marc Korman