



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 March 7th

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.

NOTE: Status notes are for the bill numbers in **Bold**. If there is a cross-file, those bills are listed in *Italics*.

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:	Speaker/ <i>President</i> (by request of the Administration)



Title:	HB 271/ SB 484 – Maryland Transit Administration – Farebox Recovery, Goals, and Performance Indicators
Summary:	Support better transit by removing a requirement that interferes with transit operating and planning. Currently, 35% of operating costs must be covered by ticket sales. This bill removes this requirement.
Status:	House Floor – On Second Reader (Favorable with Amendments)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Brooke Lierman/ <i>Sen. Richard Madaleno</i>

Economic Matters Committee

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 – Already Heard (2/23)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Marc Korman/ <i>Sen. Jim Rosapepe</i>

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/ <i>Sen. Guy Guzzone</i>

Environment and Transportation Committee

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 (1/31)
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 (2/16)
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 (2/15)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Brooke Lierman/ <i>Sen. Cheryl Kagan</i>



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 (2/15)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Steve Lafferty/ <i>Sen. Joan Conway</i>



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:	House Floor – on Third Reader
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Adelaide Eckardt/ <i>Del. Christopher Adams</i>

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 – Already Heard (2/23)m
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Speaker/ <i>President</i> (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:	House Floor – on Second Reader (Favorable with Amendments)
Position:	Support as Amended
Sponsor:	Speaker/ <i>President</i> (by request of the Administration)

Title:	HB 537- Environment - On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems and Funding for Wastewater Treatment Facilities and Sewerage Systems
Summary:	Authorizes conventional septic systems to be installed for a minimal fee to be used for wastewater treatment plant upgrades
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Already Heard (3/1)
Position:	Oppose
Sponsor:	Del. Neil Parrott

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 – Already Heard (2/22)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Anne Healey/ <i>Sen. Ronald Young</i>



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 (2/15)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Shane Robinson/ <i>Sen. Paul Pinsky</i>



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 – Already Heard (2/22)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Anne Healey/ <i>Sen. Paul Pinsky</i>

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 – Already Heard (2/22)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Anne Healey/ <i>Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam</i>



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 – Already Heard (2/24)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Jim Gilchrist

Title:	HB 970 – Real Property - New Home Sales - Information on Energy-Efficient Options
Summary:	Requires that home-builders provide buyers with information about energy-saving alternatives for their home.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Already Heard (2/21)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo

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/ <i>Sen. Guy Guzzone</i>

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:	House Floor – On Second Reader (Favorable, No Amendments)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo/ <i>Sen. Robert Zirkin</i>

Title:	HB 1355- Sewerage Systems - Residential Major Subdivisions in Tier III and Tier IV Areas
Summary:	Authorizes sprawl of major subdivisions on septic systems by repealing or amending several critical provisions of the septic “Tier Map” law.
Status:	Environment and Transportation – Already Heard (3/1)
Position:	Oppose
Sponsor:	Del. April Rose





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/ <i>Del. Anne Healey</i>

Title:	SB 314/ HB 417 - 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 – First Reading
Position:	Support as Amended
Sponsor:	President/ <i>Speaker</i> (by request of the Administration)

Title:	SB 343/ HB 384 – 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 – First Reading
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Adelaide Eckardt/ <i>Del. Christopher Adams</i>

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 (2/7)
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 (2/16)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Kirill Reznik/ <i>Sen. Paul Pinsky</i>

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:	Senate Floor – Passed Third Reader (46-0)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Bryan Simonaire

Title:	SB 484/ HB 271 – Maryland Transit Administration – Farebox Recovery, Goals, and Performance Indicators
Summary:	Support better transit by removing a requirement that interferes with transit operating and planning. Currently, 35% of operating costs must be covered by ticket sales. This bill removes this requirement.
Status:	Budget and Tax – Already Heard (2/22)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Richard Madaleno/ <i>Del. Brooke Lierman</i>

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 (1/31)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Cheryl Kagan/ <i>Del. Brooke Lierman</i>



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:	Senate Floor – on Second Reader (Favorable With Amendments)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Joan Conway/ <i>Del. Steve Lafferty</i>



Title:	SB 280/ HB 1239 - 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:	Senate Floor – on Second Reader (Favorable with Amendments)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Guy Guzzone/ <i>Del. Barbara Frush</i>

Title:	SB 365/ HB 599 - 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:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs – Already Heard (2/7)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Ronald Young/ <i>Del. Anne Healey</i>



Title:	SB 386/ HB 830 - 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:	Senate Floor – Passed Third Reader (41-6)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Shirley Nathan-Pulliam/ <i>Del. Anne Healey</i>



Title:	SB 422/ HB 602 - 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:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs – Already Heard
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Paul Pinsky/ <i>Del. Shane Robinson</i>



Title:	SB 423/ HB 345 - 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:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs – Already Heard (2/14)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Paul Pinsky/ <i>Del. Kirill Reznik</i>



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 – Already Heard (2/28)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Robert Zirkin/ <i>Del. David Fraser-Hidalgo</i>

Title:	SB 773 – Community Healthy Air Act
Summary:	Lung cancer, lung disease and asthma rates on the Lower Eastern Shore are some of the highest in the nation. SB773, will require the Maryland Department of the Environment to identify and monitor all air pollutants that are emitted by factory farms, which should include measuring outputs of toxic air emissions such as ammonia, particulate matter, and hydrogen sulfide. Currently, there are no air monitors on the Lower Eastern Shore.
Status:	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs – Already Heard (2/28)
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Richard Madaleno

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:	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee - First Reading
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Clarence Lam

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:	Senate Floor – Third Reader - Special Ordered until March 7
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Sen. Thomas Middleton / <i>Del. Sally Jameson</i>

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 (2/14)
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/ <i>Del. Marc Korman</i>

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:	Finance – First Reading
Position:	Support
Sponsor:	Del. Sally Jameson/ <i>Sen. Thomas Middleton</i>