



**Maryland League of
Conservation Voters**
The Political Voice of the Environment

Hot List - WEEK of February 9, 2016

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 this week.

TO BE INTRODUCED BILLS

<p>Clean Energy Jobs Act - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY <i>Support</i> A critical component to the reduction of greenhouse gases is increasing the State's sourcing of energy from renewable sources. Current state goals aim to source 20% renewable sources by the year 2022. The Clean Energy Jobs Act seeks to increase the goal to 25% renewables by the year 2020. The bill also includes a significant investment in workforce development for Minority and Women-Owned Businesses in the renewable energy fields.</p>	<p>Delegate Frick</p>
<p>Program Open Space - MARYLAND LCV PRIORITY <i>Support</i> The legislation proposed for 2016 will create the Preservation Trust Fund - a lock-box like protection for Program Open Space. The legislation requires re-payment of previous diversions and canceling pre-authorized diversions of transfer tax revenues established in BRFA's for FY2017 and FY2018, and establishes clear, consistent, and very limited circumstances when funds can be diverted from the Preservation Trust Fund.</p>	<p>Delegate Gaines</p>

UPCOMING BILLS IN BUDGET AND TAXATION

<p>SB 190 Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2017) Monitor We will oppose rollbacks to the legislative legacy of healthy air, clean water, and unpolluted lands. On first blush, the Governor seems to have refrained from further borrowing from Program Open Space or the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund or Bay Restoration Fund, however we must remain vigilant in protecting these programs as well as critical resources needed for the Departments of Environmental, Agriculture, Transportation, Planning, Natural Resources, and Energy to enforce laws.</p>	<p>Administration Assigned to Senate Committee: Budget and Taxation</p>
<p>SB 927 - MARYLAND LCV PRIORITY Program Open Space Trust Fund Act of 2016 Support The legislation proposed for 2016 will create the Preservation Trust Fund - a lock-box like protection for Program Open Space. The legislation requires re-payment of previous diversions and canceling pre-authorized diversions of transfer tax revenues established in BRFA's for FY2017 and FY2018, and establishes clear, consistent, and very limited circumstances when funds can be diverted from the Preservation Trust Fund.</p>	<p>Middleton; Astle; Benson; Currie; et al. Assigned to Senate Committee: Budget and Taxation</p>

UPCOMING BILLS IN EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

<p>SB 57 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Community Cleanup and Greening Act of 2016 Support Bans the free distribution of plastic bags at point-of-sale. A 10-cent fee on paper and reusable bags defrays the additional cost for retailers and supports programs to distribute reusable bags in low-income communities, as well as waterway clean-up efforts.</p>	<p>Ramirez Committee Hearing: Already Heard</p>
<p>SB 166 Land Use Actions - Legislative Bodies - Judicial Review Support Codifies statutory right of review for neighboring property owners harmed by legislative land use action. Current statute grants right of review for neighboring property owners harmed by single zoning land use action.</p>	<p>Conway Committee Hearing: Already Heard</p>

<p>SB 198 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Neonicotinoid Pesticides - Labeling, Signage, and Restrictions on Sales and Use (Pollinator Protection Act of 2016) Support Removes neonicotinoid pesticides for residential use, and requires retail level labeling or signage for neonicotinoid plants and seeds. Neonicotinoid pesticides have been linked to devastating loss rates of bees and other pollinators.</p>	<p>Nathan-Pulliam; Benson; Ferguson; Guzzone; et al. Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Hearing: February 16 @ 1:00 PM</p>
<p>SB 323 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act - Reauthorization Support The 2009 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act is set to expire at the end of 2016 unless it is renewed this legislative session. In addition to renewal, we are asking to expand the goals from 25% reduction from peak 2006 levels by the year 2020 to 40% by the year 2030. This bill was co-sponsored by Senate President Miller, is supported by Speaker Busch, and has garnered wide bi-partisan support.</p>	<p>Pinsky; Benson; Brochin; Conway; et al. Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Hearing: February 9 @ 1:00 PM</p>
<p>SB 367 Maryland Redeemable Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act Support The Maryland Bottle Bill will place a 5-cent deposit on beverage containers, which is refunded when the container is recycled. The program will triple beverage container recycling to over 70% and reduce litter, landfilling, and incineration of recyclable materials.</p>	<p>Ferguson; Benson; Guzzone; Lee; et al. Finance Committee Hearing: February 18 @ 1:00 PM</p>
<p>SB 398 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Reducing Environmental Degradation for the Underserved Through Community Engagement (The REDUCE Act) Support This bill addresses the need for minority and low-income communities to receive information about truck traffic associated with new proposed permits for four selected categories of industrial development. Such information would facilitate the development of approaches that minimize human exposure to diesel exhaust, a known human carcinogen which contributes to air pollution and increases the risks of asthma and other health disparities in already overburdened neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Ramirez; Benson; Guzzone; Nathan-Pulliam; et al. Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Hearing: February 16 @ 1:00 PM</p>

<p>SB 496 - MARYLAND LCV PRIORITY Poultry Litter Management Act Support The bill would require poultry companies to take responsibility for manure produced by their chickens. Farmers would still be able to keep and use any manure for which they have a state approved plan. This would result in Maryland taxpayers and farmers no longer bearing the sole burden of reducing this pollution.</p>	<p>Madaleno; Benson; Conway; Feldman; et al. Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Hearing: February 23 @ 1:00 PM</p>
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UPCOMING BILLS IN FINANCE

<p>SB 57 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Community Cleanup and Greening Act of 2016 Support Bans the free distribution of plastic bags at point-of-sale. A 10-cent fee on paper and reusable bags defrays the additional cost for retailers and supports programs to distribute reusable bags in low-income communities, as well as waterway clean-up efforts.</p>	<p>Ramirez Committee Hearing: Already Heard</p>
<p>SB 367 Maryland Redeemable Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act Support The Maryland Bottle Bill will place a 5-cent deposit on beverage containers, which is refunded when the container is recycled. The program will triple beverage container recycling to over 70% and reduce litter, landfilling, and incineration of recyclable materials.</p>	<p>Ferguson; Benson; Guzzone; Lee; et al. Finance Committee Hearing: February 18 @ 1:00 PM</p>
<p>SB 921 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Clean Energy Jobs - Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Revisions Support A critical component to the reduction of greenhouse gases is increasing the State's sourcing of energy from renewable sources. Current state goals aim to source 20% renewable sources by the year 2022. The Clean Energy Jobs Act seeks to increase the goal to 25% renewables by the year 2020. The bill also includes a significant investment in workforce development for Minority and Women-Owned Businesses in the renewable energy fields</p>	<p>Pugh; Benson; Feldman; Madaleno; et al. Assigned to Senate Committee: Finance</p>

UPCOMING BILLS IN APPROPRIATIONS

<p>HB 150 Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2017) Monitor We will oppose rollbacks to the legislative legacy of healthy air, clean water, and unpolluted lands. On first blush, the Governor seems to have refrained from further borrowing from Program Open Space or the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bay Trust Fund or Bay Restoration Fund, however we must remain vigilant in protecting these programs as well as critical resources needed for the Departments of Environmental, Agriculture, Transportation, Planning, Natural Resources, and Energy to enforce laws.</p>	<p>Administration Assigned to House Committee: Appropriations</p>
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UPCOMING BILLS IN ECONOMIC MATTERS

<p>HB 31 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Community Cleanup and Greening Act of 2016 Support Bans the free distribution of plastic bags at point-of-sale. A 10-cent fee on paper and reusable bags defrays the additional cost for retailers and supports programs to distribute reusable bags in low-income communities, as well as waterway clean-up efforts.</p>	<p>Lierman Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing: February 10 @ 1:00 PM</p>
<p>HB 610 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act - Reauthorization Support The 2009 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act is set to expire at the end of 2016 unless it is renewed this legislative session. In addition to renewal, we are asking to expand the goals from 25% reduction from peak 2006 levels by the year 2020 to 40% by the year 2030. This bill was co-sponsored by Senate President Miller, is supported by Speaker Busch, and has garnered wide bi-partisan support.</p>	<p>Barve; Beidle; Carr; Chang; et al. Economic Matters and Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing: February 26 @ 12:00 PM</p>
<p>HB 862 Maryland Redeemable Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act Support The Maryland Bottle Bill will place a 5-cent deposit on beverage containers, which is refunded when the container is recycled. The program will triple beverage container recycling to over 70% and reduce litter, landfilling, and incineration of recyclable materials.</p>	<p>Frush; A. Washington; B. Barnes; Brooks; et al. Assigned to House Committee: Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters</p>

UPCOMING BILLS IN ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

<p>HB 31 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Community Cleanup and Greening Act of 2016 Support Bans the free distribution of plastic bags at point-of-sale. A 10-cent fee on paper and reusable bags defrays the additional cost for retailers and supports programs to distribute reusable bags in low-income communities, as well as waterway clean-up efforts.</p>	<p>Lierman Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing: February 10 @ 1:00 PM</p>
<p>HB 211 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Neonicotinoid Pesticides - Labeling, Signage, and Restrictions on Sales and Use (Pollinator Protection Act of 2016) Support Removes neonicotinoid pesticides for residential use, and requires retail level labeling or signage for neonicotinoid plants and seeds. Neonicotinoid pesticides have been linked to devastating loss rates of bees and other pollinators.</p>	<p>Healey; B. Robinson; Beidle; Beitzel; et al. Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing: February 10 @ 1:00 PM</p>
<p>HB 243 Land Use Actions - Legislative Bodies - Judicial Review Support Codifies statutory right of review for neighboring property owners harmed by legislative land use action. Current statute grants right of review for neighboring property owners harmed by single zoning land use action.</p>	<p>Lafferty; B. Barnes; Beidle; Carr; et al. Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing: February 9 @ 1:00 PM</p>
<p>HB 325 Environment - Bay Restoration Fund - Use of Funds - Nutrient Credit Purchases Oppose This bill would allow the Bay Restoration Fund to be used to purchase nutrient credits under a nutrient credit trading program. This bill is premature as there is currently no nutrient credit trading program in place and no way to verify whether this use of the fund is appropriate, environmentally effective, or cost-effective.</p>	<p>Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee; Environment Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing: February 10 @ 1:00 PM</p>
<p>HB 599 - MARYLAND LCV PRIORITY Poultry Litter Management Act Support The bill would require poultry companies to take responsibility for manure produced by their chickens. Farmers would still be able to keep and use any manure for which they have a state approved plan. This would result in Maryland taxpayers and farmers no longer bearing the sole burden of reducing this pollution.</p>	<p>Lam; A. Washington; B. Barnes; B. Robinson; et al. Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing: February 24 @ 1:00 PM</p>

<p>HB 610 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act - Reauthorization Support</p> <p>The 2009 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act is set to expire at the end of 2016 unless it is renewed this legislative session. In addition to renewal, we are asking to expand the goals from 25% reduction from peak 2006 levels by the year 2020 to 40% by the year 2030. This bill was co-sponsored by Senate President Miller, is supported by Speaker Busch, and has garnered wide bi-partisan support.</p>	<p>Barve; Beidle; Carr; Chang; et al. Economic Matters and Environment and Transportation Committee Hearing: February 26 @ 12:00 PM</p>
<p>HB 820 - ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY PRIORITY Reducing Environmental Degradation for the Underserved Through Community Engagement (The REDUCE Act) Support</p> <p>This bill addresses the need for minority and low-income communities to receive information about truck traffic associated with new proposed permits for four selected categories of industrial development. Such information would facilitate the development of approaches that minimize human exposure to diesel exhaust, a known human carcinogen which contributes to air pollution and increases the risks of asthma and other health disparities in already overburdened neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Lam; Beidle; Carr; Ebersole; et al. Assigned to House Committee: Environment and Transportation</p>
<p>HB 862 Maryland Redeemable Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Act Support</p> <p>The Maryland Bottle Bill will place a 5-cent deposit on beverage containers, which is refunded when the container is recycled. The program will triple beverage container recycling to over 70% and reduce litter, landfilling, and incineration of recyclable materials.</p>	<p>Frush; A. Washington; B. Barnes; Brooks; et al. Assigned to House Committee: Environment and Transportation and Economic Matters</p>