



Week of February 11, 2020

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

BILL #	<i>HB0192/SB0299</i>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2020	
SUMMARY	Requires the Maryland Department of General Services to establish standards for state buildings (and those built with 51% or more of state funding) to reduce the amount of energy-inefficient and bird-dangerous glass.	
EQUITY	This bill fights climate change, which disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities. Birds, especially migratory birds, are one of the most abundant connections between nature and disadvantaged neighborhoods.	
STATUS	Hearing February 11, 1pm (HGO)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Hill/Lam-Guzzone	
COMMITTEE	Health and Government Operations (Appropriations)	

BILL #	<i>HB0368/SB424</i>	Maryland LCV Priority
TITLE	Transit Safety and Investment Act	
SUMMARY	Requires the Governor to appropriate sufficient funding to address the \$2 billion capital needs investment shortfall released by a Departmental report during the Summer of 2019, including both maintenance and enhancement requirements.	
EQUITY	The MTA serves every county in Maryland however is most utilized by low-income residents as a means of transportation to and from job sites. The degradation of the transit infrastructure illustrated by the CNI is most harmful to an already underserved population.	
STATUS	Already Heard	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Lierman/Zucker	
COMMITTEE	Appropriations	



BILL #	<i>HB0432/SB0423</i>	Maryland LCV Priority
TITLE	Electric Buses Transition Act	
SUMMARY	Requires all buses purchased by the Maryland Department of Transportation beginning in FY22 to be electric.	
EQUITY	Diesel emissions contribute significantly to climate pollution, as well as to the respiratory health of passengers and drivers. This most directly impacts underserved and low-income communities who are more likely to be using public transit.	
STATUS	Hearing February 18, 1pm (Environment and Transportation)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Korman/Zucker	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation (Appropriations)	

Economic Matters

BILL #	<i>HB0209/SB0313</i>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act	
SUMMARY	Bans plastic bags at check-out, requires 10c cost of paper bags. Requires a workgroup to address single-use plastics pollution and recommendations for reducing disproportionate impact on low-income communities	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Plastic bag pollution is especially pervasive in low-income communities. The requirements of the workgroup, which may begin its work before the implementation date of the ban, will be focused on ensuring that low-income communities are not disproportionately effected by the cost of reusable and paper bags.	
STATUS	Hearing February 11, 1:00pm (ENT)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Lierman/Augustine	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation (Economic Matters)	

BILL #	<i>HB0438/SB0560</i>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources	
SUMMARY	Removes incineration as a tier one resource as a subsidized resource comparable to true clean energy sources such as wind and solar.	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Continued subsidization of trash incineration is a significant environmental injustice, placing a burden of meeting Maryland's sustainability standards on overburdened communities living under their stacks.	
STATUS	Hearing February 20, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Mosby/Hough	
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters	



BILL #	<i>HB0531/SB0656</i>	
TITLE	Utility Regulation: Consideration of Climate and Labor	
SUMMARY	Requires the Public Service Commission to take into account state climate goals in its decision-making, as well as “fair and stable labor standards” in carrying out its authority. Electricity generation is the second largest source of in-state greenhouse gas emissions.	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Maryland’s commitments to mitigate climate change, and thus lessen impacts on disadvantaged communities will be enhanced by requiring the PSC to factor those commitments into its regulation of the energy sector.	
STATUS	Hearing February 27, 1pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Charkoudian/Kramer	
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters (Environment and Transportation)	

BILL #	<i>HB0561/SB0315</i>	
TITLE	Community Choice Energy	
SUMMARY	Enables municipalities across Maryland to set up Community Choice Aggregation/Energy programs, which are alternatives to the investor-owned energy supply system, and can help drive an increase in renewable energy.	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Community Choice Energy would address climate change as well as the financial burden of high energy bills on low-income Marylanders.	
STATUS	Hearing February 13, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Charkoudian/Beidle	
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters	

BILL #	<i>HB1545/SB0887</i>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Electric Generation Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account (Coal Transition)	
SUMMARY	Sets a timeline by which the last six remaining coal-fired power plants must stop producing energy from coal, with a community transition plan that invests in the local communities and counties with coal plants.	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Coal plants are a leading contributor of smog-forming nitrogen oxide pollution. Over 85% of Marylanders live in counties that are in non-attainment for federal clean air standards for smog. That number increases to over 90% for African American and Hispanic Communities..	
STATUS	Hearing March 5, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Barve/West	
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters	



Environment & Transportation

BILL #	<i>HB0209/ SB0313</i>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act	
SUMMARY	Bans plastic bags at check-out, requires 10c cost of paper bags. Requires a workgroup to address single-use plastics pollution and recommendations for reducing disproportionate impact on low-income communities	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Plastic bag pollution is especially pervasive in low-income communities. The requirements of the workgroup, which may begin its work before the implementation date of the ban, will be focused on ensuring that low-income communities are not disproportionately affected by the cost of reusable and paper bags.	
STATUS	Hearing February 11, 1:00pm (ENT)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Lierman/Augustine	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation (Economic Matters)	
BILL #	<i>HB0229/SB0300</i>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition	
SUMMARY	Bans a pesticide known to be toxic at all exposures, and linked to significant adverse health impacts in infants	
EQUITY	Among the populations impacted by remaining agricultural use of chlorpyrifos are migrant farm workers, perpetuating additional negative health effects on already vulnerable populations	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 12, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Stein/Lam	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation	
BILL #	<i>HB0432/SB423</i>	Maryland LCV Priority
TITLE	Electric Buses Transition Act	
SUMMARY	Requires all buses purchased by the Maryland Department of Transportation beginning in FY22 to be electric.	
EQUITY	Diesel emissions contribute significantly to climate pollution, as well as to the respiratory health of passengers and drivers. This most directly impacts underserved and low-income communities who are more likely to be using public transit.	
STATUS	Hearing February 18, 1:00pm (Appropriations)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Korman/Zucker	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation (Appropriations)	



BILL #	<i>HB0531/SB656</i>	
TITLE	Utility Regulation: Consideration of Climate and Labor	
SUMMARY	Requires the Public Service Commission to take into account state climate goals in its decision-making, as well as “fair and stable labor standards” in carrying out its authority. Electricity generation is the second largest source of in-state greenhouse gas emissions.	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Maryland’s commitments to mitigate climate change, and lessen impacts on disadvantaged communities will be enhanced by requiring the PSC to factor those commitments into its regulation of the energy.	
STATUS	Hearing February 27, 1:00pm (Economic Matters)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Charkoudian/Kramer	
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters (Environment and Transportation)	

BILL #	<i>HB0614/SB0460</i>	Maryland LCV Priority
TITLE	Environmental Accountability and Transparency Act	
SUMMARY	Creates and ombudsman position in the Office of the Attorney General to aid in departmental transparency and enforcement in the Departments of Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture.	
EQUITY	State agencies do not have the resources to adequately provide transparency to communities about violations in their area, what permits are being considered, or which are extended or expired, and it is difficult for them to navigate the bureaucracy to make claims of environmental degradation from bad actors.	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 19, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Lierman/Elfreh	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation	

BILL #	<i>HB911/SB808</i>	Environmental Priority
TITLE	Natural Resources – Fisheries Management Plan	
SUMMARY	This emergency legislation clarifies due dates connected with the newly enacted process established by last year’s bill (Natural Resources – Fishery Management Plans – Oysters).	
EQUITY	Healthy oyster populations improve local water quality, providing access to healthy water for recreation and food. Unfortunately, much of the overfishing is concentrated in and around the Lower Eastern Shore, which contains a high proportion of Maryland’s underserved communities, including the poorest county in the state	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 12, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Gilchrist/Elfreh	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation	



BILL #	HB1451	Maryland LCV Priority
TITLE	School Bus Purchasing – Zero Emission Vehicle - Requirement	
SUMMARY	Requires all school buses purchased by county boards of education, beginning in 2023, to be a zero-emission vehicle, with similar requirements for all counties whose buses are provided by independent contractors beginning in 2026.	
EQUITY	Diesel emissions contribute significantly to climate pollution, as well as to the respiratory health of passengers and drivers. This most directly impacts underserved and low-income communities who are more likely to be using public transit, including school buses.	
STATUS	First Reading Ways and Means (Environment and Transportation)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Fraser-Hidalgo	
COMMITTEE	Ways and Means (Environment and Transportation)	

Health and Government Operations

BILL #	HB0192/SB0299	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2020	
SUMMARY	Requires the Maryland Department of General Services to establish standards for state buildings (and those built with 51% or more of state funding) to reduce the amount of energy-inefficient and bird-dangerous glass.	
EQUITY	This bill fights climate change, which disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities. Birds, especially migratory birds, are one of the most abundant connections between nature and disadvantaged neighborhoods.	
STATUS	Hearing February 11, 1pm (HGO)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Hill/Lam-Guzzone	
COMMITTEE	Health and Government Operations (Appropriations)	

BILL #	HB0424/SB0447	
TITLE	Public Health – Products Containing a Flame-Retardant Chemical	
SUMMARY	Restricts the use of toxic flame retardant chemicals in furniture and children’s products to protect families and fire fighters. These chemicals are not effective for fire safety. Commonly used chemical flame retardants are linked to cancer and other negative health-impacts in children.	
EQUITY	Research suggests that low-income communities of color suffer most from lower indoor air quality, of which chemical flame retardants play a significant role through household dust.	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 12, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Cullison/Guzzone	
COMMITTEE	Health and Government Operations	



Ways and Means

BILL #	<i>HB1451</i>	Maryland LCV Priority
TITLE	School Bus Purchasing – Zero Emission Vehicle - Requirement	
SUMMARY	Requires all school buses purchased by county boards of education, beginning in 2023, to be a zero-emission vehicle, with similar requirements for all counties whose buses are provided by independent contractors beginning in 2026.	
EQUITY	Diesel emissions contribute significantly to climate pollution, as well as to the respiratory health of passengers and drivers. This most directly impacts underserved and low-income communities who are more likely to be using public transit, including school buses.	
STATUS	First Reading Ways and Means (Environment and Transportation)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Fraser-Hidalgo	
COMMITTEE	Ways and Means (Environment and Transportation)	

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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.

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MARYLAND SENATE

Budget and Tax

BILL #	<i>SB423/ HB0432</i>	Maryland LCV Priority
TITLE	Electric Buses Transition Act	
SUMMARY	Requires all buses purchased by the Maryland Department of Transportation beginning in FY22 to be electric.	
EQUITY	Diesel emissions contribute significantly to climate pollution, as well as to the respiratory health of passengers and drivers. This most directly impacts underserved and low-income communities who are more likely to be using public transit.	
STATUS	Hearing February 19, 1:00pm, (Education, Health and Environmental Affairs)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Zucker/Korman	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs (Budget and Taxation)	

BILL #	<i>SB424/ HB0368</i>	Maryland LCV Priority
TITLE	Transit Safety and Investment Act	
SUMMARY	Requires the Governor to appropriate sufficient funding to address the \$2 billion capital needs investment shortfall released by a Departmental report during the Summer of 2019, including both maintenance and enhancement requirements.	
EQUITY	The MTA serves every county in Maryland however is most utilized by low-income residents as a means of transportation to and from job sites. The degradation of the transit infrastructure illustrated by the CNI is most harmful to an already underserved population.	
STATUS	Hearing February 12, 1pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Zucker/ Lierman	
COMMITTEE	Budget and Tax	



Education Health and Environmental Affairs

BILL #	SB0254	
TITLE	On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems – Inspection - Licensing	
SUMMARY	Establishes licensing requirements for people who inspect septic systems. Current law only requires inspectors to become certified through a one-day training course that is valid indefinitely, leaving new home-buyers vulnerable to shoddy inspections and exposing them to significant financial risk.	
EQUITY	New homeowners are dependent on septic inspectors to judge whether the system is working properly. By licensing inspectors, the state is able to help homeowners judge the safety of their investment and protect the drinking water quality of neighboring wells.	
STATUS	Hearing February 11, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Young	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs	

BILL #	SB0299/ HB0192	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2020	
SUMMARY	Requires the Maryland Department of General Services to establish standards for state buildings (and those built with 51% or more of state funding) to reduce the amount of energy-inefficient and bird-dangerous glass.	
EQUITY	This bill fights climate change, which disproportionately affects disadvantaged communities. Birds, especially migratory birds, are one of the most abundant connections between nature and disadvantaged neighborhoods.	
STATUS	Hearing March 11, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Lam-Guzzone/ Hill	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs	

BILL #	SB0300/ HB0229	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Pesticides – Use of Chlorpyrifos – Prohibition	
SUMMARY	Bans a pesticide known to be toxic at all exposures, and linked to significant adverse health impacts in infants.	
EQUITY	Among the populations impacted by remaining agricultural use of chlorpyrifos are migrant farm workers, perpetuating additional negative health effects on already vulnerable populations.	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 11, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Lam/Stein	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs	



BILL #	<i>SB423/ HB0432</i>	Maryland LCV Priority
TITLE	Electric Buses Transition Act	
SUMMARY	Requires all buses purchased by the Maryland Department of Transportation beginning in FY22 to be electric.	
EQUITY	Diesel emissions contribute significantly to climate pollution, as well as to the respiratory health of passengers and drivers. This most directly impacts underserved and low-income communities who are more likely to be using public transit.	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 19, 1:00pm (Education, Health and Environmental Affairs)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Zucker/Korman	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs (Budget and Taxation)	

BILL #	<i>SB0460/ HB0614</i>	Maryland LCV Priority
TITLE	Environmental Accountability and Transparency Act	
SUMMARY	Creates and ombudsman position in the Office of the Attorney General to aid in departmental transparency and enforcement in the Departments of Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture.	
EQUITY	State agencies do not have the resources to adequately provide transparency to communities about violations in their area, what permits are being considered, or which are extended or expired, and it is difficult for them to navigate the bureaucracy to make claims of environmental degradation from bad actors.	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 19, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Elfreth/ Lierman	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs	

BILL #	<i>SB808/ HB911</i>	Environmental Priority
TITLE	Natural Resources – Fisheries Management Plan	
SUMMARY	This emergency legislation clarifies due dates connected with the newly enacted process established by last year's bill (Natural Resources – Fishery Management Plans – Oysters).	
EQUITY	Healthy oyster populations improve local water quality, providing access to healthy water for recreation and food. Unfortunately, much of the overfishing is concentrated in and around the Lower Eastern Shore, which contains a high proportion of Maryland's underserved communities, including the poorest county in the state	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 25, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Elfreth/ Gilchrist	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs	



BILL #	<i>SB0887/ HB1545</i>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Electric Generation Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account (Coal Transition)	
SUMMARY	Sets a timeline by which the last six remaining coal-fired power plants must stop producing energy from coal, with a community transition plan that invests in the local communities and counties with coal plants.	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Coal plants are a leading contributor of smog-forming nitrogen oxide pollution. Over 85% of Marylanders live in counties that are in non-attainment for federal clean air standards for smog. That number increases to over 90% for African American and Hispanic Communities.	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 25, 1:00pm (Finance)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	West/ Barve	
COMMITTEE	Finance (Education, Health and Environmental Affairs)	

Finance

BILL #	<i>SB0313/ HB0209</i>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act	
SUMMARY	Bans plastic bags at check-out, requires 10c cost of paper bags. Requires a workgroup to address single-use plastics pollution and recommendations for reducing disproportionate impact on low-income communities	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Plastic bag pollution is especially pervasive in low-income communities. The requirements of the workgroup, which may begin its work before the implementation date of the ban, will be focused on ensuring that low-income communities are not disproportionately affected by the cost of reusable and paper bags.	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 20, 1:00pm (FIN)	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Augustine/ Lierman	
COMMITTEE	Finance	

BILL #	<i>SB0315/ HB0561</i>	
TITLE	Community Choice Energy	
SUMMARY	Enables municipalities across Maryland to set up Community Choice Aggregation/Energy programs, which are alternatives to the investor-owned energy supply system, and can help drive an increase in renewable energy.	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Community Choice Energy would address climate change as well as the financial burden of high energy bills on low-income Marylanders.	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 25, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Beidle/ Charkoudian	
COMMITTEE	Finance	



BILL #	SB0447/ HB0424	
TITLE	Public Health – Products Containing a Flame-Retardant Chemical	
SUMMARY	Restricts the use of toxic flame retardant chemicals in furniture and children’s products to protect families and fire fighters. These chemicals are not effective for fire safety. Commonly used chemical flame retardants are linked to cancer and other negative health-impacts in children.	
EQUITY	Research suggests that low-income communities of color suffer most from lower indoor air quality, of which chemical flame retardants play a significant role through household dust.	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 13, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Guzzone/Cullison	
COMMITTEE	Health and Government Operations	

BILL #	SB560/ HB438	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources	
SUMMARY	Removes incineration as a tier one resource as a subsidized resource comparable to true clean energy sources such as wind and solar.	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Continued subsidization of trash incineration is a significant environmental injustice, placing a burden of meeting Maryland’s sustainability standards on overburdened communities living under their stacks.	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 25, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Hough/Mosby	
COMMITTEE	Finance	

BILL #	SB656/ HB0531	
TITLE	Utility Regulation: Consideration of Climate and Labor	
SUMMARY	Requires the Public Service Commission to take into account state climate goals in its decision-making, as well as “fair and stable labor standards” in carrying out its authority. Electricity generation is the second largest source of in-state greenhouse gas emissions.	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Maryland’s commitments to mitigate climate change, and thus lessen impacts on disadvantaged communities will be enhanced by requiring the PSC to factor those commitments into its regulation of the energy sector.	
STATUS	Hearing Date February 25, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	Kramer/ Charkoudian	
COMMITTEE	Finance	



BILL #	SB0887/ HB1545	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Electric Generation Transition from Fossil Fuels – Carbon Dioxide Emissions Rate and Transition Account (Coal Transition)	
SUMMARY	Sets a timeline by which the last six remaining coal-fired power plants must stop producing energy from coal, with a community transition plan that invests in the local communities and counties with coal plants.	
EQUITY CONCERNS	Coal plants are a leading contributor of smog-forming nitrogen oxide pollution. Over 85% of Marylanders live in counties that are in non-attainment for federal clean air standards for smog. That number increases to over 90% for African American and Hispanic Communities.	
STATUS	Hearing February 25, 1:00pm	
POSITION	Support	
SPONSOR	West/ Barve	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs (Finance)	

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