



HOTLIST

Week of February 21, 2022

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 will be emailed to every legislator every Tuesday and will also be available online on our website. 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 410-952-8100

MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Appropriations

BILL #	HB300/SB290	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2023)	
SUMMARY	The State's budget surplus for the 2023 fiscal year and the expectation of federal funding dedicated to climate and water quality improvements create an unprecedented opportunity for the state to advance its goals for greenhouse gas reduction and to meet the 2025 Chesapeake Bay Blueprint, while honoring the principles of Justice 40.	
EQUITY	The federal guidelines for Justice 40 ensure that significant resources are directed to communities that have suffered generations of disinvestment and structural racism.	
STATUS	Hearing not scheduled	
POSITION	Support with identified priorities - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Speaker/President	
COMMITTEE	Appropriations	



HOTLIST

BILL #	<u>HB806</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Building Standards and Emissions Reductions - High Performance State, and Local Government Buildings, State Operations, and Eligible Projects	
SUMMARY	Changes the definition of “high performance building” to a stricter standard and initiates a “Buy Clean Maryland” act to give preference in the procurement of building materials to those with lower carbon footprints. Requires all existing state and local government buildings to reduce their direct greenhouse gas emission to net-zero by 2035. It requires all new state buildings and local government buildings that are at least 50% funded by the state to be built to all-electric code for water & space heating.	
CLIMATE	This bill contains provisions similar to those included in Climate Solutions Now Act	
STATUS	Bill Hearing: March 1	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Stein	
COMMITTEE	Appropriations	

Economic Matters

BILL #	<u>HB11</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Priority
TITLE	Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2022	
SUMMARY	Removes all incineration from receiving subsidies within the state Renewable Portfolio Standards.	
EQUITY	Incinerators, such as the BRESKO incinerator in Baltimore, contribute to poor respiratory health conditions in the surrounding communities, many of which are lower income and/or communities of color. This bill is a priority of the Environmental Justice Coalition.	
STATUS	Bill Hearing: March 4	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Stewart	
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters	



HOTLIST

BILL #	<u>HB31/SB256</u>
TITLE	Maryland Energy Administration - Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund
SUMMARY	This bill creates a program to direct funding that builds “resiliency hubs” in low and moderate income communities to strengthen the reliability of the electric grid with energy derived from clean, renewable, energy rather than fossil fuels, including diesel-fueled generators which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions
EQUITY	Low and moderate income (LMI) communities are more likely to experience the impacts of significant weather events, made more frequent by the effects of climate change.
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 3
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Charkoudian/Beidle
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters

BILL #	<u>HB696</u>
TITLE	Public Utilities - Electric School Bus Pilot Program
SUMMARY	This bill creates a pilot program to contract with utility companies for the purchase of electric school buses. School districts in each utility service area will be eligible to purchase zero-emission electric buses rather than diesel ones at no additional cost to the school districts. Each investor-owned utility that implements the program will provide rebates to school districts for a minimum of 25 electric buses. Investor-owned utilities may recover reasonable costs of the pilot program through a ratepayer adjustment..
EQUITY	More than 650,000 children in Maryland ride to school daily on one of the state’s approximately 7,200 diesel school buses. Diesel school buses are a significant source of toxic air pollution, much of which is emitted around young children with still-developing lungs and organs that make them more vulnerable to harmful pollution.
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners
STATUS	Bill Heard - February 10 (ECM)
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority
SPONSOR	Fraser-Hidalgo
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters (Environment and Transportation)



MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS

Priority



BILL #	<u>HB708</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Comprehensive Climate Solutions	
SUMMARY	The bill changes Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction requirements to 60% below 2006 levels by 2032 and net-zero by 2045. The bill also calls on the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities to determine the percentage of state funds spent on climate change that must go to overburdened communities. It also creates a work group to protect impacted workers, as well as a Climate Justice Corps.	
EQUITY	The bill addresses environmental injustices by: 1) reducing the emissions causing climate impacts disproportionately in low-wealth communities and communities of color, 2) ensuring a portion of state climate funds spent on climate change that must go to overburdened communities, and 3) helping create jobs at all levels.	
CLIMATE	This bill contains provisions included in Climate Solutions Now Act	
STATUS	Bill Hearing: March 4	
POSITION	Support - Environmental Priority	
SPONSOR	Barve	
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters	

Environment and Transportation

BILL #	<u>HB141/ SB23</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Priority
TITLE	Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses	
SUMMARY	Requires that equity analyses be conducted before changes can be made in public transportation policy, particularly changes that would distribute their impacts in a pattern that disproportionately adversely affect protected classes identified by race, color, national origin, etc.	
EQUITY	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text, and is a priority of the Environmental Justice Coalition	
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners.	
STATUS	Bill Heard - January 27	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Ruth/Carter	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation	



BILL #	<u>HB596/SB783</u>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights	
SUMMARY	Amending the Declaration of Rights section of the Maryland State Constitution to: 1) protect each person’s fundamental right to a healthful and sustainable environment and 2) the State, as trustee, shall protect Maryland’s natural resources for present and future generations.	
EQUITY	Current environmental law does not protect all Marylanders equally. Zip code is a powerful determinant of whether a person is exposed to environmental pollution. Protecting each person’s right to a healthful and sustainable environment in our state constitution is establishing equity in and of itself. In addition, the amendment is a legal remedy for communities to hold the government accountable when these rights are infringed.	
CLIMATE	This bill contains provisions included in Climate Solutions Now Act	
STATUS	Bill Hearing: February 23	
POSITION	Support - Environmental Priority	
SPONSOR	W. Fisher/Smith	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation	

BILL #	<u>HB653/SB348</u>
TITLE	2022 Conservation Finance Act
SUMMARY	This bill makes changes to the departments of Environment, Natural Resources, Transportation and Agriculture and the states finance and procurement codes in order to make it easier for private funding and financing to play a role in helping Maryland achieve positive outcomes in water quality, environmental justice, public health, forest and agricultural soil carbon sequestration. The projects would deliver co-benefits including local jobs, flood risk reduction, and climate resilience.
EQUITY	Among the provisions of this bill is a requirement for the state’s Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities to make recommendations to the Department of the Environment that would create progress towards safe, clean, and affordable water for all Marylanders. Additionally, it would expand the uses of the Drinking Water Revolving Fund to prioritize toxic lead-pipe removal and green infrastructure installation to mitigate environmental and health hazards in communities experiencing environmental injustice due to systemic disinvestment.
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 16
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Love/Elfreth
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation



HOTLIST

BILL #	<u>HB696</u>
TITLE	Public Utilities - Electric School Bus Pilot Program
SUMMARY	This bill creates a pilot program to contract with utility companies for the purchase of electric school buses. School districts in each utility service area will be eligible to purchase zero-emission electric buses rather than diesel ones at no additional cost to the school districts. Each investor-owned utility that implements the program will provide rebates to school districts for a minimum of 25 electric buses. Investor-owned utilities may recover reasonable costs of the pilot program through a ratepayer adjustment..
EQUITY	More than 650,000 children in Maryland ride to school daily on one of the state's approximately 7,200 diesel school buses. Diesel school buses are a significant source of toxic air pollution, much of which is emitted around young children with still-developing lungs and organs that make them more vulnerable to harmful pollution.
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners
STATUS	Bill Heard - February 10 (ECM)
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority
SPONSOR	Fraser-Hidalgo
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters (Environment and Transportation)



MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS

Priority

BILL #	<u>HB831</u>
TITLE	Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Commercial and Residential Buildings
SUMMARY	Requires all existing large commercial and multifamily buildings to reduce direct greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2040; requires an all electric code for space and water heating in all new commercial and residential buildings.
EQUITY	This bill ensures that low income households are supported in transitioning their homes to be more energy efficient and support transitions away from fossil fuels.
CLIMATE	This bill contains provisions similar to those included in Climate Solutions Now Act
STATUS	Bill Hearing: February 25
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority
SPONSOR	Stein
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation



MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS

**Environmental
Community
Priority**



HOTLIST

Health and Government Operations

BILL #	<u>HB275/SB273</u>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Environment - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions and Requirements	
SUMMARY	Per-and-polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are a family of approximately 5,000 man-made organic chemicals used in myriad consumer products. Because of their unique carbon-fluorine bonds, PFAS are resistant to degradation in the environment, can persist for decades in water and air, and accumulate in our bodies over time. This bill comprehensively addresses PFAS contamination by adopting some of the country's strongest PFAS policies.	
EQUITY	We don't yet know the scope of our PFAS pollution problem in Maryland, although the substance is present throughout the state in waterways and aquatic life that people eat. Generally speaking, communities of color are disproportionately impacted by toxic chemical exposure in consumer products, homes, and water.	
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 9	
POSITION	Support - Environmental Community Priority	
SPONSOR	Love/Elfreth	
COMMITTEE	Health and Government Operations	

Ways and Means

BILL #	<u>HB76/SB264</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Priority
TITLE	Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Exemption from Property Taxes	
SUMMARY	This bill provides property tax exemption for community solar projects on rooftops, parking lots, brownfields and other previously developed properties, and reserves 50% of their energy for low and moderate income (LMI) consumers. LMI consumers receive 20-25% reduction on their energy bills.	
EQUITY	Under current regulations, very few projects are being built for low and moderate income consumers, preventing them from receiving the environmental and economic benefits of solar energy. This bill helps to address those challenges.	
CLIMATE	This bill is also a provision within the Climate Solutions Now Act	
STATUS	Bill Heard: January 19	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
COMMITTEE	Ways and Means	



MARYLAND SENATE

Budget and Taxation

BILL #	<u>SB264/HB76</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Priority
TITLE	Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Exemption from Property Taxes	
SUMMARY	This bill provides property tax exemption for community solar projects on rooftops, parking lots, brownfields and other previously developed properties, and reserves 50% of their energy for low and moderate income (LMI) consumers. LMI consumers receive 20-25% reduction on their energy bills.	
EQUITY	Under current regulations, very few projects are being built for low and moderate income consumers, preventing them from receiving the environmental and economic benefits of solar energy. This bill helps to address those challenges.	
CLIMATE	This bill is also a provision within the Climate Solutions Now Act	
STATUS	Bill Heard: January 25	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Elfreth/Smith	
COMMITTEE	Budget and Taxation	

BILL #	<u>SB290/HB300</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2023)	
SUMMARY	The State's budget surplus for the 2023 fiscal year and the expectation of federal funding dedicated to climate and water quality improvements create an unprecedented opportunity for the state to advance its goals for greenhouse gas reduction and to meet the 2025 Chesapeake Bay Blueprint, while honoring the principles of Justice 40.	
EQUITY	The federal guidelines for Justice 40 ensure that significant resources are directed to communities that have suffered generations of disinvestment and structural racism.	
STATUS	Hearing not scheduled	
POSITION	Support with identified priorities- Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	President/Speaker	
COMMITTEE	Budget and Taxation	



HOTLIST

BILL #	<u>SB0528</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022	
SUMMARY	The bill changes Maryland’s greenhouse gas reduction requirements to 60% below 2006 levels by 2030 and net-zero by 2045. The bill also calls on the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities to determine the percentage of state funds spent on climate change that must go to environmental justice communities. It also creates a work group to protect impacted workers. Finally, the bill provides several mitigation policies.	
EQUITY	This bill addresses environmental injustices by: 1) reducing the emission causing climate impacts disproportionately in low-wealth communities and communities of color 2) ensuring a portion of state climate funds are spent on environmental justice communities, 3) helping create jobs at all levels.	
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners	
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 15 (EHE)	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Pinsky	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (Budget and Tax)	

BILL #	<u>HB94</u>
TITLE	State Vehicle Fleet - Conversion to Zero-Emission Passenger Cars and Other Light-Duty Vehicles
SUMMARY	This bill requires all contracts for all passenger cars and other light-duty vehicles to be for zero-emission vehicles, leading to a complete transition of the fleet by 2035. The long-term savings in fuel, operation, and maintenance costs make zero-emission vehicles a more cost-effective investment over the lifetime of the vehicles, although the initial monetary outlay may be higher than for their fossil fuel counterparts. More importantly, transitioning to zero-emission buses will reduce the health and environmental risks from air pollution caused by exhaust fumes.
EQUITY	The transportation sector is the single largest contributor to the state’s climate emissions. The environmental and health impacts of this pollution are disproportionately borne by low-income communities and communities of color.
CLIMATE	This bill is also a provision within the Climate Solutions Now Act
STATUS	Crossed over: Assigned to Budget and Taxation
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Fraser-Hidalgo
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation



Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

BILL #	<u>SB273</u> / <u>HB275</u>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Environment - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions and Requirements	
SUMMARY	Per-and-polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are a family of approximately 5,000 man-made organic chemicals used in myriad consumer products. Because of their unique carbon-fluorine bonds, PFAS are resistant to degradation in the environment, can persist for decades in water and air, and accumulate in our bodies over time. This bill comprehensively addresses PFAS contamination by adopting some of the country's strongest PFAS policies.	
EQUITY	We don't yet know the scope of our PFAS pollution problem in Maryland, although the substance is present throughout the state in waterways and aquatic life that people eat. Generally speaking, communities of color are disproportionately impacted by toxic chemical exposure in consumer products, homes, and water.	
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 2	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Elfreth/Love	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs	

BILL #	<u>SB348</u> / <u>HB653</u>
TITLE	2022 Conservation Finance Act
SUMMARY	This bill makes changes to the departments of Environment, Natural Resources, Transportation and Agriculture and the states finance and procurement codes in order to make it easier for private funding and financing to play a role in helping Maryland achieve positive outcomes in water quality, environmental justice, public health, forest and agricultural soil carbon sequestration. The projects would deliver co-benefits including local jobs, flood risk reduction, and climate resilience.
EQUITY	Among the provisions of this bill is a requirement for the state's Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities to make recommendations to the Department of the Environment that would create progress towards safe, clean, and affordable water for all Marylanders. Additionally, it would expand the uses of the Drinking Water Revolving Fund to prioritize toxic lead-pipe removal and green infrastructure installation to mitigate environmental and health hazards in communities experiencing environmental injustice due to systemic disinvestment.
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 9
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Elfreth/Love
COMMITTEE	Budget and Taxation (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)



BILL #	<u>SB0528</u>	 <p>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</p> <p>Environmental Community Priority</p>
TITLE	Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022	
SUMMARY	The bill changes Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction requirements to 60% below 2006 levels by 2030 and net-zero by 2045. The bill also calls on the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities to determine the percentage of state funds spent on climate change that must go to environmental justice communities. It also creates a work group to protect impacted workers. Finally, the bill provides several mitigation policies.	
EQUITY	This bill addresses environmental injustices by: 1) reducing the emission causing climate impacts disproportionately in low-wealth communities and communities of color 2) ensuring a portion of state climate funds are spent on environmental justice communities, 3) helping create jobs at all levels.	
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners	
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 15 (EHE)	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Pinsky	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (Budget and Tax)	

BILL #	<u>SB783/HB596</u>	<p>Environmental Community Priority</p>
TITLE	Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights	
SUMMARY	Amending the Declaration of Rights section of the Maryland State Constitution to: 1) protect each person's fundamental right to a healthful and sustainable environment and 2) the State, as trustee, shall protect Maryland's natural resources for present and future generations.	
EQUITY	Current environmental law does not protect all Marylanders equally. Zip code is a powerful determinant of whether a person is exposed to environmental pollution. Protecting each person's right to a healthful and sustainable environment in our state constitution is establishing equity in and of itself. In addition, the amendment is a legal remedy for communities to hold the government accountable when these rights are infringed.	
CLIMATE	This bill contains provisions included in Climate Solutions Now Act	
STATUS	Bill Hearing: March 9 (JPR)	
POSITION	Support - Environmental Priority	
SPONSOR	W. Fisher/Smith	
COMMITTEE	Judicial Proceedings (Education Health and Environmental Affairs)	



HOTLIST

Finance

BILL #	<u>SB23/HB141</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Priority
TITLE	Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses	
SUMMARY	Requires that equity analyses be conducted before changes can be made in public transportation policy, particularly changes that would distribute their impacts in a pattern that disproportionately adversely affect protected classes identified by race, color, national origin, etc.	
EQUITY	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text, and is a priority of the Environmental Justice Coalition	
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners.	
STATUS	Bill Heard: January 26	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Carter/Ruth	
COMMITTEE	Finance	

BILL #	<u>SB256/HB31</u>
TITLE	Maryland Energy Administration - Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund
SUMMARY	This bill creates a program to direct funding that builds “resiliency hubs” in low and moderate income communities to strengthen the reliability of the electric grid with energy derived from clean, renewable, energy rather than fossil fuels, including diesel-fueled generators which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions
EQUITY	Low and moderate income (LMI) communities are more likely to experience the impacts of significant weather events, made more frequent by the effects of climate change.
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 1
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Beidle/Charkoudian
COMMITTEE	Finance



BILL #	<u>SB348</u> / <u>HB653</u>
TITLE	2022 Conservation Finance Act
SUMMARY	This bill makes changes to the departments of Environment, Natural Resources, Transportation and Agriculture and the states finance and procurement codes in order to make it easier for private funding and financing to play a role in helping Maryland achieve positive outcomes in water quality, environmental justice, public health, forest and agricultural soil carbon sequestration. The projects would deliver co-benefits including local jobs, flood risk reduction, and climate resilience.
EQUITY	Among the provisions of this bill is a requirement for the state's Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities to make recommendations to the Department of the Environment that would create progress towards safe, clean, and affordable water for all Marylanders.. Additionally, it would expand the uses of the Drinking Water Revolving Fund to prioritize toxic lead-pipe removal and green infrastructure installation to mitigate environmental and health hazards in communities experiencing environmental injustice due to systemic disinvestment.
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 9 (BAT)
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Elfreth/Love
COMMITTEE	Budget and Taxation (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)



Judicial Proceedings

BILL #	<u>SB783/HB596</u>	Environmental Community Priority
TITLE	Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights	
SUMMARY	Amending the Declaration of Rights section of the Maryland State Constitution to: 1) protect each person’s fundamental right to a healthful and sustainable environment and 2) the State, as trustee, shall protect Maryland’s natural resources for present and future generations.	
EQUITY	Current environmental law does not protect all Marylanders equally. Zip code is a powerful determinant of whether a person is exposed to environmental pollution. Protecting each person’s right to a healthful and sustainable environment in our state constitution is establishing equity in and of itself. In addition, the amendment is a legal remedy for communities to hold the government accountable when these rights are infringed.	
CLIMATE	This bill contains provisions included in Climate Solutions Now Act	
STATUS	Bill Hearing: March 9 (JPR)	
POSITION	Support - Environmental Priority	
SPONSOR	W. Fisher/Smith	
COMMITTEE	Judicial Proceedings (Education Health and Environmental Affairs)	

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 for those bills. 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