



MARYLAND  
LEAGUE OF  
CONSERVATION  
VOTERS


# HOTLIST

Week of February 28, 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](mailto:kharbeson@mdlcv.org) or 410-952-8100

## MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES


### Appropriations

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB300/SB290</u></a>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS  <b>Environmental Community Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2023)</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	The federal guidelines for Justice 40 ensure that significant resources are directed to communities that have suffered generations of disinvestment and structural racism.	
<b>STATUS</b>	Hearing not scheduled	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support with identified priorities - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Speaker/President	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Appropriations	



<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB806</u></a>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS  <b>Environmental Community Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Building Standards and Emissions Reductions - High Performance State, and Local Government Buildings, State Operations, and Eligible Projects</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill contains provisions similar to those included in Climate Solutions Now Act	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Hearing; March 1	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Stein	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Appropriations	


## Economic Matters


<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB11</u></a>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS  <b>Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2022</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	Removes all incineration from receiving subsidies within the state Renewable Portfolio Standards.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Hearing; March 4	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Stewart	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Economic Matters	

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB31/SB256</u></a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Maryland Energy Administration - Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 3
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Charkoudian/Beidle
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Economic Matters



# HOTLIST


<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB696</u></a>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS  <b>Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Public Utilities - Electric School Bus Pilot Program</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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..	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard - February 10 (ECM)	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Fraser-Hidalgo	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Economic Matters (Environment and Transportation)	

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB708</u></a>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS  <b>Environmental Community Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Comprehensive Climate Solutions</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill contains provisions included in Climate Solutions Now Act	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Hearing: March 4	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Environmental Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Barve	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Economic Matters	



<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#">HB880/SB931</a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Environment - Impact of Actions on Climate, Labor, and Environmental Justice</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This bill would provide quantifiable means for state agencies to assess a proposed action's potential impacts on the climate, overburdened communities, underserved communities, and workers in Maryland. Through the actions put forth in HB 880, agency decisions can move into closer alignment with community needs, as well as federal executive orders dedicated to combating climate change and environmental injustices.
<b>EQUITY</b>	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text.
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Hearing: March 2 (ENT)
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Boyce/Watson
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Environment and Transportation (Economic Matters)

## Environment and Transportation

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#">HB141/ SB23</a>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS  <b>Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text, and is a priority of the Environmental Justice Coalition	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners.	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard - January 27	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Environment and Transportation	




<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB596/SB783</u></a>	<b>Environmental Community Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill contains provisions included in Climate Solutions Now Act	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 23	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Environmental Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	W. Fisher/Smith	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Environment and Transportation	

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB649/SB492</u></a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Environment - Discharge Permits - Inspections and Administrative Continuations</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This bill aims to address the backlog of NPDES permits that have been administratively continued (zombie permits) by limiting the period of time MDE can extend permits, requiring MDE to clear the backlog of permits by 2026, and requiring MDE request sufficient staff to carry this out by 2023. Additionally, monthly, randomized inspections will be required for all operations with zombie permits and all operations found in significant noncompliance. Finally, the bill will establish administrative penalties for facilities that remain in noncompliance after two or more consecutive months of inspection.
<b>EQUITY</b>	Industrial stormwater has an outsized impact on communities of color as industrial facilities can be clustered in areas with a high proportion of Black, Indigenous, People of Color residents. Increasing enforcement will mean earlier awareness and a quicker end to environmental hazards in local streams and rivers, some of which in the area of predominantly BIPOC communities.
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 23
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Love/Pinsky
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Environment and Transportation




<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB653/SB348</u></a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>2022 Conservation Finance Act</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 16
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Love/Elfreth
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Environment and Transportation

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB696/SB948</u></a>	 <p><b>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</b></p> <p><b>Priority</b></p>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Public Utilities - Electric School Bus Pilot Program</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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..	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard - February 10 (ECM)	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Fraser-Hidalgo/Kramer	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Economic Matters (Environment and Transportation)	



# HOTLIST

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB831</u></a>	 <b>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</b>  <b>Environmental Community Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Commercial and Residential Buildings</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill contains provisions similar to those included in Climate Solutions Now Act	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 25	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Stein	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Environment and Transportation	

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB880/SB931</u></a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Environment - Impact of Actions on Climate, Labor, and Environmental Justice</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This bill would provide quantifiable means for state agencies to assess a proposed action's potential impacts on the climate, overburdened communities, underserved communities, and workers in Maryland. Through the actions put forth in HB 880, agency decisions can move into closer alignment with community needs, as well as federal executive orders dedicated to combating climate change and environmental injustices.
<b>EQUITY</b>	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text.
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Hearing: March 2 (ENT)
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Boyce/Watson
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Environment and Transportation (Economic Matters)



# HOTLIST

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB960/SB651</u></a>	Favorable Only As Amended
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Environment - Discharge Permits - Inspections and Administrative Continuations</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	Preservation of existing forest can be a valued part of forest conservation during development, but only where balanced with newly planted areas to help offset those that are lost. Full mitigation generates both the need and ability to deploy a diversified mitigation strategy where new plantings and conservation of high-value forest can play a role. As drafted, this bill would codify a major mitigation policy without information the General Assembly identified 2021 as critical to updating mitigation standards within the Forest Conservation Act, and would make changes without setting any parameters or priorities for the development risk, location, or ecological value of existing forest offered for credit through a practice known as 'forest banking.' <b>We ask that this bill be amended to permit the use of preservation banking credits only in projects that achieve equal or greater acreage of mitigation for each acre of forest removed.</b>	
<b>EQUITY</b>	Due to a legacy of racist planning policy, underserved and urban communities typically have fewer trees than other communities. Tree cover has been linked to improved both physical and mental health and provides opportunities to develop social capital and cohesion within communities, especially those currently unserved or underserved by existing financial and healthcare infrastructure. While an indirect impact, poor forest banking policies could reduce demand for other replanting programs in general, including urban tree plantings.	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Hearing: March 2	
<b>POSITION</b>	<b>Support ONLY with Amendments</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Kerr/Young	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Environment and Transportation	






<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#">HB1200/SB818</a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Environment - Permit Applications - Environmental Justice Screening</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This bill requires an identification and disclosure of local pollution sources when a permit is being requested for a new polluting facility, and that this identification be included in the “packet” of information that is provided for public notice and comment. Allowing conflicts between developers and the communities surrounding their proposals to be identified and discussed early in the process to a benefit to all parties.
<b>EQUITY</b>	Many communities are at a disadvantage when it comes to having access to information regarding project developments, in particular low-income communities and communities of color who bear the brunt of these development projects.
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 24
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Ellis/Wells
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

## Health and Government Operations

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#">HB275/SB273</a>	<b>Environmental Community Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Environment - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions and Requirements</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 9	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Environmental Community Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Love/Elfreth	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Health and Government Operations	



## Ways and Means

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB76</u></a> / <a href="#"><u>SB264</u></a>	 <b>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</b>  <b>Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Exemption from Property Taxes</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is also a provision within the Climate Solutions Now Act	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: January 19	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Smith/Elfreth	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Ways and Means	

## MARYLAND SENATE

### Senate Floor


<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB256</u></a> / <a href="#"><u>HB31</u></a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Maryland Energy Administration - Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners
<b>STATUS</b>	Second Reader (Favorable with Amendments)
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Beidle/Charkoudian
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Finance




# HOTLIST

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB273/HB275</u></a>	<b>Environmental Community Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Environment - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions and Requirements</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>STATUS</b>	Passed the Senate	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Elfreth/Love	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs	

## Budget and Taxation


<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB264/HB76</u></a>	 <b>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</b>  <b>Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Community Solar Energy Generating Systems - Exemption from Property Taxes</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is also a provision within the Climate Solutions Now Act	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: January 25	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Elfreth/Smith	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Budget and Taxation	



<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB290/HB300</u></a>	 <b>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</b>  <b>Environmental Community</b>  <b>Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Budget Bill (Fiscal Year 2023)</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	The federal guidelines for Justice 40 ensure that significant resources are directed to communities that have suffered generations of disinvestment and structural racism.	
<b>STATUS</b>	Hearing not scheduled	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support with identified priorities- <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	President/Speaker	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Budget and Taxation	

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB348/HB653</u></a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>2022 Conservation Finance Act</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 9 (BAT)
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Elfreth/Love
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Budget and Taxation (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)



<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB0528</u></a>	 <b>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</b>  <b>Environmental Community</b>  <b>Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 15 (EHE)	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Pinsky	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (Budget and Tax)	

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>HB94</u></a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>State Vehicle Fleet - Conversion to Zero-Emission Passenger Cars and Other Light-Duty Vehicles</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is also a provision within the Climate Solutions Now Act
<b>STATUS</b>	Crossed over: Assigned to Budget and Taxation
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Fraser-Hidalgo
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Environment and Transportation



## Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#">SB348</a> / <a href="#">HB653</a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>2022 Conservation Finance Act</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 9
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Elfreth/Love
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Budget and Taxation (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)


<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#">SB348</a> / <a href="#">HB653</a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>2022 Conservation Finance Act</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 9
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Elfreth/Love
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Budget and Taxation (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)



<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#">SB461/HB651</a>	Favorable Only As Amended
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Environment - Discharge Permits - Inspections and Administrative Continuations</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>Preservation of existing forest can be a valued part of forest conservation during development, but only where balanced with newly planted areas to help offset those that are lost. Full mitigation generates both the need and ability to deploy a diversified mitigation strategy where new plantings and conservation of high-value forest can play a role. As drafted, this bill would codify a major mitigation policy without information the General Assembly identified 2021 as critical to updating mitigation standards within the Forest Conservation Act, and would make changes without setting any parameters or priorities for the development risk, location, or ecological value of existing forest offered for credit through a practice known as 'forest banking.' <b>We ask that this bill be amended to permit the use of preservation banking credits only in projects that achieve equal or greater acreage of mitigation for each acre of forest removed.</b></p>	
<b>EQUITY</b>	<p>Due to a legacy of racist planning policy, underserved and urban communities typically have fewer trees than other communities. Tree cover has been linked to improved both physical and mental health and provides opportunities to develop social capital and cohesion within communities, especially those currently unserved or underserved by existing financial and healthcare infrastructure. While an indirect impact, poor forest banking policies could reduce demand for other replanting programs in general, including urban tree plantings.</p>	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Hearing: March 1	
<b>POSITION</b>	<b>Support ONLY with Amendments</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Young/Kerr	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	



<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB492/HB649</u></a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Environment - Discharge Permits - Inspections and Administrative Continuations</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This bill aims to address the backlog of NPDES permits that have been administratively continued (zombie permits) by limiting the period of time MDE can extend permits, requiring MDE to clear the backlog of permits by 2026, and requiring MDE request sufficient staff to carry this out by 2023. Additionally, monthly, randomized inspections will be required for all operations with zombie permits and all operations found in significant noncompliance. Finally, the bill will establish administrative penalties for facilities that remain in noncompliance after two or more consecutive months of inspection.
<b>EQUITY</b>	Industrial stormwater has an outsized impact on communities of color as industrial facilities can be clustered in areas with a high proportion of Black, Indigenous, People of Color residents. Increasing enforcement will mean earlier awareness and a quicker end to environmental hazards in local streams and rivers, some of which in the area of predominantly BIPOC communities.
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 24
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Pinsky/Love
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB0528</u></a>	 <p>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</p> <p><b>Environmental Community Priority</b></p>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 15 (EHE)	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Pinsky	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (Budget and Tax)	







<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB783/HB596</u></a>	<b>Environmental Community Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill contains provisions included in Climate Solutions Now Act	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Hearing: March 9 (JPR)	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Environmental Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	W. Fisher/Smith	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Judicial Proceedings (Education Health and Environmental Affairs)	

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB818/HB1200</u></a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Environment - Permit Applications - Environmental Justice Screening</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This bill requires an identification and disclosure of local pollution sources when a permit is being requested for a new polluting facility, and that this identification be included in the “packet” of information that are provided for public notice and comment. Allowing conflicts between developers and the communities surrounding their proposals to be identified and discussed early in the process to a benefit to all parties.
<b>EQUITY</b>	Many communities are at a disadvantage when it comes to having access to information regarding project developments, in particular low-income communities and communities of color who bear the brunt of these development projects.
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: February 24
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Ellis/Wells
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs



## Finance

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB23/HB141</u></a>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS  <b>Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Equity in Transportation Sector - Guidelines and Analyses</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text, and is a priority of the Environmental Justice Coalition	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners.	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Heard: January 26	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Carter/Ruth	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Finance	

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB948/HB696</u></a>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS  <b>Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Public Utilities - Electric School Bus Pilot Program</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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..	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners	
<b>STATUS</b>	No hearing scheduled	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Maryland LCV Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Kramer/Fraser-Hidalgo	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Finance	



## Judicial Proceedings

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB783/HB596</u></a>	<b>Environmental Community Priority</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights</b>	
<b>SUMMARY</b>	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.	
<b>EQUITY</b>	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.	
<b>CLIMATE</b>	This bill contains provisions included in Climate Solutions Now Act	
<b>STATUS</b>	Bill Hearing: March 9 (JPR)	
<b>POSITION</b>	Support - <b>Environmental Priority</b>	
<b>SPONSOR</b>	W. Fisher/Smith	
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Judicial Proceedings (Education Health and Environmental Affairs)	

## Senate Rules

<b>BILL #</b>	<a href="#"><u>SB931/HB880</u></a>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Environment - Impact of Actions on Climate, Labor, and Environmental Justice</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	This bill would provide quantifiable means for state agencies to assess a proposed action’s potential impacts on the climate, overburdened communities, underserved communities, and workers in Maryland. Through the actions put forth in HB 880, agency decisions can move into closer alignment with community needs, as well as federal executive orders dedicated to combating climate change and environmental injustices.
<b>EQUITY</b>	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text.
<b>STATUS</b>	No hearing scheduled
<b>POSITION</b>	Support
<b>SPONSOR</b>	Watson/Boyce
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	No committee assigned

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](mailto:kharbeson@mdlcv.org)