



MARYLAND
LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS

HOTLIST

Week of March 14, 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

House Floor

BILL #	HB653/SB348
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	Second Reader
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Love/Elfreth
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation



HOTLIST

BILL #	<u>HB696</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Priority
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	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Fraser-Hidalgo	
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters (Environment and Transportation)	

Appropriations

BILL #	<u>HB300/SB290</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	Speaker/President	
COMMITTEE	Appropriations	



BILL #	<u>HB729/SB471</u>
TITLE	Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying Reductions in Emissions
SUMMARY	Mandates carbon neutrality for Maryland public four-year universities by 2035. Creates an Environmental and Economic Justice Scholarship Fund. Creates an Office of Sustainability at campuses and mandates regular meeting and coordination. Lays the foundation for a Sustainability General Education Requirement
EQUITY	Harms of climate pollution fall disproportionately on low-income communities and communities of color. The Economic and Environmental Justice Scholarship Fund will reduce the cost of higher education for students from Maryland communities suffering from climate change and/or disproportionate pollution burden and health disparities.
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners
STATUS	Bill Heard: March 1
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Solomon/Rosapepe
COMMITTEE	Appropriations

BILL #	<u>HB806</u>	 <p>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</p> <p>Environmental Community Priority</p>
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 Heard: March 1	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Stein	
COMMITTEE	Appropriations	



BILL #	<u>HB1033</u>	 <p>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</p> <p>Priority</p>
TITLE	Environment and Energy - Investment in Overburdened Communities	
SUMMARY	This bill directs increased investment in communities who are overburdened by environmental hazards and are also low-income, defined as at least 50% of the population at or below the 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.	
EQUITY	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text, and is a priority of the Environmental Justice Coalition	
STATUS	Bill Hearing; March 15	
POSITION	Support with Amendments- Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Rosenberg	
COMMITTEE	Appropriations (Economic Matters)	

Economic Matters

BILL #	<u>HB11</u>	 <p>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</p> <p>Priority</p>
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 BRESCO 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	Withdrawn by Sponsor	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Stewart	
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters	



BILL #	<u>HB88/SB525</u>
TITLE	Public Utilities - Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards
SUMMARY	This bill supports and guides the Public Service Committee in the planning process to improve the electric grid. It defines how we meet state goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, expanding the use of renewable energy, promoting equity, supporting family-sustaining employment and ensuring both energy resiliency and cost-effectiveness. It directs one-time federal infrastructure funding to support grid improvement, working in tandem with grant funding from the Department of Energy to support grid modernization.
EQUITY	Ensuring representative engagement in the distribution planning process, including from low-income communities, and supports family sustaining jobs by requiring distribution grid upgrade projects include strong worker protections including developing a plan to recruit and retain state residents including returning citizens, women, people of color, and veterans
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 3
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Charkoudian/Feldman
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters

BILL #	<u>HB708</u>	 <p>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</p> <p>Environmental Community Priority</p>
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 Heard: March 4	
POSITION	Support - Environmental Priority	
SPONSOR	Barve	
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters	



BILL #	<u>HB880/SB931</u>
TITLE	Environment - Impact of Actions on Climate, Labor, and Environmental Justice
SUMMARY	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.
EQUITY	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text.
STATUS	Bill Heard: March 2 (ENT)
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Boyce/Watson
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation (Economic Matters)

BILL #	<u>HB1033</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Priority
TITLE	Environment and Energy - Investment in Overburdened Communities	
SUMMARY	This bill directs increased investment in communities who are overburdened by environmental hazards and are also low-income, defined as at least 50% of the population at or below the 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.	
EQUITY	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text, and is a priority of the Environmental Justice Coalition	
STATUS	Bill Hearing: March 15	
POSITION	Support with Amendments- Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Rosenberg	
COMMITTEE	Appropriations (Economic Matters)	

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	Crossed Over - Assigned to ECM
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Beidle/Charkoudian
COMMITTEE	Finance



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	Crossed Over - Assigned to ENT/ecm	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Pinsky	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (Budget and Tax)	

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 Heard: February 23	
POSITION	Support - Environmental Priority	
SPONSOR	W. Fisher/Smith	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation	

BILL #	<u>HB649/SB492</u>
TITLE	Environment - Discharge Permits - Inspections and Administrative Continuations
SUMMARY	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.
EQUITY	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.
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 23
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Love/Pinsky
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation



HOTLIST

BILL #	<u>HB829/SB687</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Priority
TITLE	Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022	
SUMMARY	The bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to adopt regulations establishing requirements for the sale of new zero-emission medium and heavy duty vehicles in the state, equal to the standards adopted by the California Air Resources Board vehicle standards.	
EQUITY	In addition to trucks, this bill helps to transition school buses from diesel to electric. 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 25	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Love/Young	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation	

BILL #	<u>HB831</u>	 MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS Environmental Community Priority
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 Heard: February 25	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Stein	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation	



BILL #	<u>HB880/SB931</u>
TITLE	Environment - Impact of Actions on Climate, Labor, and Environmental Justice
SUMMARY	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.
EQUITY	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text.
STATUS	Bill Hearing: March 2 (ENT)
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Boyce/Watson
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation (Economic Matters)

BILL #	<u>HB960/SB651</u>	Favorable Only As Amended
TITLE	Natural Resources - Forest Mitigation Banks and Forest Conservation Fund - Alterations	
SUMMARY	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.' 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.	
EQUITY	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.	
STATUS	Bill Heard: March 2	
POSITION	Support ONLY with Amendments	
SPONSOR	Kerr/Young	
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation	



BILL #	<u>HB1200/SB818</u>
TITLE	Environment - Permit Applications - Environmental Justice Screening
SUMMARY	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.
EQUITY	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.
STATUS	Bill Heard: March 4, 2022
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Wells/Ellis
COMMITTEE	Environmental and Transportation

BILL #	<u>SB348/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	Crossed Over - Assigned to ENT
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Elfreth/Love
COMMITTEE	Budget and Taxation (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)



BILL #	SB0528	 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	Crossed Over - Assigned to ENT/ecm	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Pinsky	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (Budget and Tax)	

Health and Government Operations

BILL #	SB273/HB275	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	Crossed over - Assigned to HGO	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Elfrehth/Love	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs	



Ways and Means

BILL #	<u>HB76</u> / <u>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	
SPONSOR	Smith/Elfreth	
COMMITTEE	Ways and Means	

BILL #	<u>SB264</u> / <u>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	Crossed Over - Assigned to WAM	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Elfreth/Smith	
COMMITTEE	Budget and Taxation	



MARYLAND SENATE

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	

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 BAT
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Fraser-Hidalgo
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation



Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

BILL #	<u>SB471/HB729</u>
TITLE	Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying Reductions in Emissions
SUMMARY	Mandates carbon neutrality for Maryland public four-year universities by 2035. Creates an Environmental and Economic Justice Scholarship Fund. Creates an Office of Sustainability at campuses and mandates regular meeting and coordination. Lays the foundation for a Sustainability General Education Requirement
EQUITY	Harms of climate pollution fall disproportionately on low-income communities and communities of color. The Economic and Environmental Justice Scholarship Fund will reduce the cost of higher education for students from Maryland communities suffering from climate change and/or disproportionate pollution burden and health disparities.
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 15
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Rosapepe/Solomon
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

BILL #	<u>SB651/HB960</u>	Favorable Only As Amended
TITLE	Natural Resources - Forest Mitigation Banks and Forest Conservation Fund - Alterations	
SUMMARY	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.' 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.	
EQUITY	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.	
STATUS	Bill Heard: March 1	
POSITION	Support ONLY with Amendments	
SPONSOR	Young/Kerr	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs	



BILL #	<u>SB492/HB649</u>
TITLE	Environment - Discharge Permits - Inspections and Administrative Continuations
SUMMARY	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.
EQUITY	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.
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 24
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Pinsky/Love
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

BILL #	<u>SB687/HB829</u>
TITLE	Zero-Emission Truck Act of 2022
SUMMARY	The bill requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to adopt regulations establishing requirements for the sale of new zero-emission medium and heavy duty vehicles in the state, equal to the standards adopted by the California Air Resources Board vehicle standards.
EQUITY	In addition to trucks, this bill helps to transition school buses from diesel to electric. 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 24
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority
SPONSOR	Young/Love
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs



MARYLAND
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VOTERS

Priority



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)	

BILL #	<u>SB818/HB1200</u>
TITLE	Environment - Permit Applications - Environmental Justice Screening
SUMMARY	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.
EQUITY	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.
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 24
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Ellis/Wells
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs



HOTLIST

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	Crossed Over - Assigned to EHE	
POSITION	Support - Environmental Community Priority	
SPONSOR	Love/Elfreth	
COMMITTEE	Health and Government Operations	

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>SB525/HB88</u>
TITLE	Public Utilities - Energy Distribution Planning and Required Labor Standards
SUMMARY	This bill supports and guides the Public Service Committee in the planning process to improve the electric grid. It defines how we meet state goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, expanding the use of renewable energy, promoting equity, supporting family-sustaining employment and ensuring both energy resiliency and cost-effectiveness. It directs one-time federal infrastructure funding to support grid improvement, working in tandem with grant funding from the Department of Energy to support grid modernization.
EQUITY	Ensuring representative engagement in the distribution planning process, including from low-income communities, and supports family sustaining jobs by requiring distribution grid upgrade projects include strong worker protections including developing a plan to recruit and retain state residents including returning citizens, women, people of color, and veterans
CLIMATE	This bill is a priority of the Climate Partners
STATUS	Bill Heard: February 15
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Feldman/Charkoudian
COMMITTEE	Finance

BILL #	<u>SB948/HB696</u>	 <p>MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS</p> <p>Priority</p>
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 Hearing: March 22	
POSITION	Support - Maryland LCV Priority	
SPONSOR	Kramer/Fraser-Hidalgo	
COMMITTEE	Finance	



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	Crossed Over - Assigned to Finance
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Charkoudian/Beidle
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters

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

HOTLIST

Senate Rules

BILL #	SB931/HB880
TITLE	Environment - Impact of Actions on Climate, Labor, and Environmental Justice
SUMMARY	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.
EQUITY	The equity impact of this bill is implicit in its intent and text.
STATUS	No hearing scheduled
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Watson/Boyce
COMMITTEE	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