MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

HOTLIST

Week of March 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 or 410-952-8100

MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Appropriations

BILL #	*HB300*/*SB290*
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. Maryland LCV and the Environmental Justice Coalition urge the inclusion of budget language that directs investment (at least 40%) for climate and resiliency initiatives to communities that 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 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	Budget and Taxation

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Environmental Community

Priority

Economic Matters

BILL #	*SB256*/*HB31*
TITLE	**Maryland Energy Administration - Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund**

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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

Environment and Transportation

BILL #	**SB348/HB653**
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 #	**SB492/HB649**
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

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	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	Crossed Over: Assigned to ENT
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Pinsky/Love
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

BILL #	SB818/HB1200
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	Crossed Over: Assigned to ENT
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Ellis/Wells
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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 prese/nt 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 - HGO Hearing: 3/30	
POSITION	Support - **Maryland LCV Priority**	
SPONSOR	Elfreth/Love	
COMMITTEE	Education, Health and Environmental Affairs	

Ways and Means

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BILL #	SB264/HB76
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 - WAM Hearing 3/29
POSITION	Support - **Maryland LCV Priority**
SPONSOR	Elfreth/Smith
COMMITTEE	Budget and Taxation

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Priority

House Rules and Executive Nominations

BILL #	SB23/HB141
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	Crossed Over - Assigned to HRU
POSITION	Support - **Maryland LCV Priority**
SPONSOR	Carter/Ruth
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation

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Priority

MARYLAND SENATE

Senate Floor

BILL #	HB31/SB256
TITLE	**Maryland Energy Administration - Resiliency Hub Grant Program and Fund**

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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 - Second Reader
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Charkoudian/Beidle
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters

BILL #	***HB141*/ SB23**
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	Crossed Over - Second Reader
POSITION	Support - **Maryland LCV Priority**
SPONSOR	Ruth/Carter
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation

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Priority

BILL #	**SB0528**
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	Passed Second Chamber with Amendments
POSITION	Vote to Concur- **Maryland LCV Priority**
SPONSOR	Pinsky
COMMITTEE	Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs (Budget and Tax)

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Environmental Community Priority

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Budget and Taxation

BILL #	*SB290*/*HB300*
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. Maryland LCV and the Environmental Justice Coalition urge the inclusion of budget language that includes definitions of "overburdened," an "underserved," as well as directing 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 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

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Environmental Community Priority

BILL #	*HB76*/ *SB264*
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 BAT
POSITION	Support - **Maryland LCV Priority**
SPONSOR	Smith/Elfreth
COMMITTEE	Ways and Means

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BILL #	*HB94*

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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: BAT Hearing: 3/30
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Fraser-Hidalgo
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation

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	Crossed Over: BAT/ehe Hearing: 3/29
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Love/Elfreth
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

BILL #	**HB275/SB273**
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

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	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.	Environmental Community Priority
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	

BILL #	***HB649*/SB492**
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	Crossed Over: Assigned to EHE
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Love/Pinsky
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation

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.

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STATUS	Crossed Over: BAT/ehe Hearing: 3/29
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Love/Elfreth
COMMITTEE	Environment and Transportation

BILL #	***HB1200*/*SB818***
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	Crossed Over; Assigned to EHE
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Wells/Ellis
COMMITTEE	Environmental and Transportation

Finance

BILL #	***HB88*/*SB525***
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	Crossed-over: Assigned to FIN
POSITION	Support
SPONSOR	Charkoudian/Feldman
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters

BILL #	***HB696***
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

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	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	Crossed Over - Assigned to FIN
POSITION	Support - **Maryland LCV Priority**
SPONSOR	Fraser-Hidalgo
COMMITTEE	Economic Matters (Environment and Transportation)

MARYLAND LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

Priority

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