



**MSBA Bill Report 5A - Environment,  
Energy, and Construction Law  
(2024.02.14)**

**February 14, 2024**

[MD - HB1315 Public Service Commission - Electricity Generation Facilities - Premature Retirement \(Keep the Lights On Act\)](#)

Last Action: Hearing 3/07 at 1:00 p.m. (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Brian Chisholm (R)

Scheduled Hearing:

Economic Matters (House)

**Date:** March 7, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring the Public Service Commission to consider certain factors before authorizing or approving any agreement related to the premature retirement of an electricity generation facility; establishing a rebuttable presumption that an electricity generation facility should not be prematurely retired; and prohibiting the Commission from authorizing or approving an agreement related to the premature retirement of an electricity generation facility under certain circumstances.

Statutes Amended:

7-218 Article - Public Utilities

[MD - HB1318 Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge and Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Fund and Grant Programs - Established (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Regina T. Boyce (D)

Scheduled Hearing:

Environment and Transportation (House)

**Date:** March 1, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing the On-Farm Organics Diversion and Recycling Grant Program in the Department of Agriculture to award grants to eligible entities for on-farm organics recycling and compost use, wasted food prevention, and food rescue; establishing a solid waste disposal surcharge of \$2 per ton of solid waste processed by a refuse disposal system for final disposal; establishing the Wasted Food Reduction and Diversion Grant Program in the Department of the Environment; etc.

Statutes Amended:

1-701,

9-1701,

9-1725.1, 9-1725.2, 9-1725.3,

9-201 Article - Environment

2-109,

2-401 Article - Agriculture

6-226 Article - State Finance and Procurement

**MD - HB1320 Bay Restoration Fund - Disbursement and Use of Fund**

Last Action: Hearing 3/06 at 1:00 p.m. (February 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Dana Stein (D)

Scheduled Hearing:

Environment and Transportation (House)

**Date:** March 6, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the disbursement of certain fee revenue deposited into the Bay Restoration Fund in a certain manner; and authorizing certain fee revenue deposited into the Fund to be used for certain costs attributable to the testing, engineering, or design of a certain on-site sewage disposal system and for installing or replacing the drain field of a certain on-site sewage disposal system that utilizes the best available technology for the removal of nitrogen.

Statutes Amended:

9-1605.2 Article - Environment

**MD - HB1328 Solar Energy and Energy Storage - Development and State Procurement**

Last Action: Text - First - Solar Energy and Energy Storage - Development and State Procurement (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Natalie Ziegler (D)

Scheduled Hearing:

Economic Matters (House)

**Date:** February 29, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing a county to enact a local law creating a conservation and restoration fund for a certain purpose; establishing the Utility-Scale Solar Design and Siting Commission in the Power Plant

**Construction Law (2024.02.14)**

Research Program to provide recommendations related to solar energy development and land conservation and preservation; requiring the owner or operator of a certain solar energy generating station to plant and maintain a certain cover crop on certain land and submit a certain vegetation management plan to a certain entity; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB1082

Statutes Amended:

12-905 Article - Local Government

3-306.2 Article - Natural Resources

4-325 Article - State Finance and Procurement

7-215.1, 7-216.2 Article - Public Utilities

9-2016 Article - State Government

**MD - HB1347 State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund - Alteration and Extension**

Last Action: Hearing 2/27 at 12:00 p.m. (February 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Jim Hinebaugh, Jr. (R)

Scheduled Hearing:

Appropriations (House)

**Date:** February 27, 2024

**Time:** 12:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 120, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the amount of an appropriation the Governor is required to make to the State Lakes Protection and Restoration Fund, from \$1,000,000 each fiscal year to \$2,000,000 for fiscal years 2026 and 2027; and extending the termination date applicable to certain provisions relating to the purpose, use, and funding of the Fund, from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

Cross-filed Bill: SB1094

Statutes Amended:

2018, 2022 Article - Chapter of the Acts

8-205 Article - Natural Resources

**MD - HB1365 State and Private Construction Contracts and State Procurement Contracts - Prompt Payment and Interest Requirements**

Last Action: Text - First - State and Private Construction Contracts and State Procurement Contracts - Prompt Payment and Interest Requirements (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Kriselda Valderrama (D)

Scheduled Hearing:

Economic Matters (House)

**Date:** March 6, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring a private construction contract to include a provision requiring the owner to pay the contractor within 45 days after the receipt of a proper invoice following completion of the work or, if the owner withholds all or part of an amount invoiced, to send a certain notification to the contractor; requiring a contract between a contractor and a subcontractor on a private or State construction contract to include a provision requiring the contractor to pay the subcontractor within 7 days after receipt of payment; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB715

Statutes Amended:

13-228,

15-103,

15-104 Article - State Finance and Procurement

17-601,

17-604 Article - Business Regulation

**[MD - HB1367 Public Utilities - Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity - Energy Storage Devices](#)**

Last Action: Hearing 2/29 at 1:00 p.m. (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Kriselda Valderrama (D)

Scheduled Hearing:

Economic Matters (House)

**Date:** February 29, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring a person to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Public Service Commission before beginning construction of an energy storage device with a minimum energy storage capacity of 1 megawatt; and applying the Act prospectively.

Statutes Amended:

7-207 Article - Public Utilities

**[MD - HB1375 Environmental Justice - Identification of and Investment in Overburdened and Underserved Communities - Report](#)**

Last Action: Hearing 3/06 at 1:00 p.m. (February 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg (D)

Scheduled Hearing:

Environment and Transportation (House)

**Date:** March 6, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring the Department of the Environment to submit an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 31, 2024, relating to the identification of overburdened and underserved communities, the percentage of spending for certain investments that benefited overburdened and underserved communities during the prior fiscal year within certain governmental entities, and certain recommendations on improving the identification of and provision of assistance to overburdened and underserved communities.

### [MD - HB1378 Task Force on Washington County Regional Water and Wastewater Governance](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Task Force on Washington County Regional Water and Wastewater Governance (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate William J. Wivell (R)

Summary:

Establishing the Task Force on Washington County Regional Water and Wastewater Governance to study the water supply, wastewater treatment, and approaches to water and wastewater governance in Washington County; requiring the Governor to include an appropriation of \$750,000 in the fiscal year 2026 budget bill for the completion of the report; and requiring the Task Force to submit its findings and recommendations by July 1, 2026.

Cross-filed Bill: SB1078

### [MD - HB1379 Department of General Services - Renewable Natural Gas Pilot Program - Establishment](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Department of General Services - Renewable Natural Gas Pilot Program - Establishment (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Christopher T. Adams (R)

Scheduled Hearing:

Economic Matters (House)

**Date:** March 7, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Requiring the Department of General Services, in consultation with the University System of Maryland and the Department of the Environment, to establish a Renewable Natural Gas Pilot Program in the Department on or before January 1, 2025; requiring the Department, in consultation with the University System of Maryland and the Department of the Environment, to issue a certain solicitation for a renewable natural gas contract; authorizing the Department to enter into a contract to procure renewable natural gas; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB935

Statutes Amended:

4-325, 4-326 Article - State Finance and Procurement

7-704.4 Article - Public Utilities

**MD - HB1393 Electric System Planning - Scope and Funding**

Last Action: Hearing 2/29 at 1:00 p.m. (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Brian M. Crosby (D)

Scheduled Hearing:

Economic Matters (House)

**Date:** February 29, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the scope of certain policy goals with regard to energy systems; requiring the Public Service Commission to report on certain projects relating to certain goals; altering the scope of certain funds that may be used for certain projects related to the electric system; requiring the Commission to adopt regulations or issue rules to require pursuit of federal funds in a certain manner; requiring the Commission to adopt regulations to require investment in certain demand-side reliability and efficiency improvement methods; etc.

Statutes Amended:

3-416 Article - Labor and Employment

7-801 through 7-804 Article - Public Utilities

**MD - HB1404 EnvironmentStorage of Dissolved Air Flotation BProductsLocal Authority**

Last Action: Hearing 3/08 at 1:00 p.m. (February 12, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist (R)

Scheduled Hearing:

Environment and Transportation (House)

**Date:** March 8, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 250, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Authorizing a political subdivision to enact a certain local law or ordinance regarding the storage of dissolved air flotation by-products that is equal to or more stringent than the permit requirements for a sewage sludge utilization permit.

Statutes Amended:

9-201,

9-233,

9-701,

9-720,

9-731, 9-732 Article - Environment

**MD - HB1407 County Tier 1 Renewable Sources Generating Systems, Capacity, and Generation Prohibition, Studies, and Plans**

Last Action: Hearing 2/29 at 1:00 p.m. (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate C. T. Wilson (D)

Scheduled Hearing:

Economic Matters (House)

**Date:** February 29, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Prohibiting counties from establishing zoning laws or other regulations that restrict or prohibit the construction or operation of Tier 1 renewable source generating systems or facilities; requiring the Public Service Commission to study the electricity demand in each county and determine the amount of capacity of, and energy generation from, Tier 1 renewable sources needed in each county for the State to meet certain renewable energy portfolio standard requirements; etc.

Statutes Amended:

10-103,

1-401,

4-211.1 Article - Land Use

7-703.1 Article - Public Utilities

**MD - HB1428 Public Safety - Electric Vehicle Charging Station Safety Commission**

Last Action: Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m. (February 13, 2024)



Primary Sponsor: Delegate April Miller (R)

Scheduled Hearing:

Judiciary (House)

**Date:** March 5, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 100, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Safety Commission to develop policy recommendations to increase safety for vehicle owners and passengers and reduce violent crime and theft at electric vehicle charging stations; and requiring the Commission, beginning by December 31, 2025, to annually submit recommendations to the General Assembly.

Statutes Amended:

3-531 Article - Public Safety

**[MD - HB1435 Renewable Energy - Net Energy Metering Aggregation, Solar Renewable Energy Credits, and Taxes on Solar Energy Generating Systems \(Brighter Tomorrow Act\)](#)**

Last Action: Text - First - Renewable Energy - Net Energy Metering Aggregation, Solar Renewable Energy Credits, and Taxes on Solar Energy Generating Systems (Brighter Tomorrow Act) (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo (D)

Scheduled Hearing:

Economic Matters (House)

**Date:** March 7, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Altering the maximum generating capacity authorized for certain net metered generating facilities; authorizing an eligible customer-generator participating in certain meter aggregation to receive excess generation from more than one generating system; requiring the Public Service Commission to establish a Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program; providing that solar energy generating systems that receive a certain certification by the Commission are eligible to receive additional solar renewable energy credits; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB783

Statutes Amended:

1-101,  
7-237,  
7-249, 7-250, 7-522 Article - Tax - Property  
7-306,  
7-306.2,  
7-709,  
7-709.1, 7-712 Article - Public Utilities

**MD - HB1438 Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2024**

Last Action: Text - First - Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2024 (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo (D)

Scheduled Hearing:

Economic Matters (House)

**Date:** March 7, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** House Office Building, Room 230, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program in the Department of the Environment to secure payments from certain businesses that extract fossil fuels or refine petroleum products in order to provide a source of revenue for State efforts to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and to address the health impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations; establishing the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Fund to support efforts to mitigate climate change; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB958

Statutes Amended:

14-110.4,  
14-110.5 Article - Public Safety  
2-1504,  
2-1701 through 2-1707 Article - Environment  
7-1202,  
7-1203 Article - Transportation  
9-2012,  
9-2015,  
9-20B-05 Article - State Government

[MD - HB1465 Soil Conservation Districts - Small Ponds - Plan Review Fees](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Soil Conservation Districts - Small Ponds - Plan Review Fees (February 14, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Greg Wims (D)

Summary:

Authorizing a soil conservation district to recommend a fee system to cover the cost of reviewing plans for small ponds; establishing that any fees collected under the Act shall be supplemental to county and State funds; requiring a soil conservations district, in developing a fee system for small pond plans, to determine for the succeeding year the reasonable cost of reviewing the plans; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: SB196

Statutes Amended:

5-503 Article - Environment

8-101,

8-306,

8-311 Article - Agriculture

[MD - HB1473 Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Hunting - Lead and Lead-Based Ammunition - Phase-Out (February 14, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Vaughn Stewart (D)

Summary:

Requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish a certain process to phase out on or before December 31, 2026, the use of lead or lead-based ammunition for hunting; and requiring the Department to establish a process to certify ammunition as nonlead ammunition.

Cross-filed Bill: SB983

Statutes Amended:

10-428 Article - Natural Resources

[MD - HB1478 Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses - Decommission of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Bay Restoration Fund - Authorized Uses - Decommission of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon (February 14, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Delegate Jesse T. Pippy (R)

Summary:

Altering the authorized uses of the Bay Restoration Fund to include, beginning in fiscal year 2026, 100% of certain costs related to the decommissioning of certain wastewater treatment lagoons.

Cross-filed Bill: SB726

Statutes Amended:

9-1605.2 Article - Environment

**MD - SB1078 Task Force on Washington County Regional Water and Wastewater Governance**

Last Action: Hearing 3/08 at 9:00 a.m. (February 13, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Washington County Senators

Scheduled Hearings:

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

**Date:** March 8, 2024

**Time:** 9:00am (EST)

**Location:** West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Education, Energy, and the Environment (Senate)

**Date:** March 8, 2024

**Time:** 1:00pm (EST)

**Location:** West Miller Senate Building, Room 2, Annapolis, MD

Summary:

Establishing the Task Force on Washington County Regional Water and Wastewater Governance to study the water supply, wastewater treatment, and approaches to water and wastewater governance in Washington County; requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill for fiscal year 2026 an appropriation of \$750,000 for the completion of a certain report; and requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to certain entities on or before July 1, 2026.

Cross-filed Bill: HB1378

**MD - SB1106 Annual Corrective Bill**

Last Action: Text - First - Annual Corrective Bill (February 2, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: President

Summary:

Correcting certain errors or omissions in certain articles of the Annotated Code; clarifying language; correcting certain obsolete references; reorganizing certain sections of the Annotated Code; providing that this Act is not intended to affect any law other than to correct technical errors; and providing for the correction of certain errors and obsolete provisions by the publishers of the Annotated Code.

Statutes Amended:

10-1004,

5-1101 Article - Economic Development

10-103,

11-139.3,  
11A-121,  
3-401,  
8A-1502 Article - Real Property

10-405,

10-607,  
10-906,  
4-1008,  
8-1103,  
8-2A-02,  
8-2A-04,  
8-408,  
8-409,  
8-712.1,  
8-716 Article - Natural Resources

10-902,

16-303,  
18-108,  
19-502,  
19-706.1,  
20-1302,  
21-101,  
21-1215,  
24-2302,  
24-905,  
2-505,  
5-301 Article - Health - General

1-204,

1-702,  
1-708,  
2-329,  
3-801,  
3-8A-01,  
3-8A-17.3,  
3-8A-19 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

13-1401,

4-111 Article - Criminal Law

13-903 Article - Transportation

13A-604,

3-201,

5-310 Article - Public Safety

14-12B-01 Article - Commercial Law

15-114,

18-1907,

4-201.1,

5-213,

5-223,

5-239,

5-303 Article - Education

15-302,

8-101,

8-503 Article - Health Occupations

17-101,

7-304 Article - Business Regulation

17-111,

17-202 Article - Estates and Trusts

19-106 Article - Insurance

20-206 Article - State Personnel and Pensions

2-106 Article - Tax - Property

2-1220 Article - State Government

25-204 Article - Local Government

3-101,

3-105,

3-106,

3-108,

3-109,

3-112,

3-114,

6-220 Article - Criminal Procedure

3-302 Article - State Finance and Procurement

3-413,

9-407 Article - Labor and Employment

4-305,

9-609.1 Article - Correctional Services

4-333 Article - General Provisions

5-101,

5-201,

9-1702,

9-204,

9-2501 Article - Environment

7-207.2,

7-704.1 Article - Public Utilities

### **MD - SB1118** [Natural Resources - Fish and Fisheries - Reporting Requirements](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Natural Resources - Fish and Fisheries - Reporting Requirements (February 7, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Guy Guzzone (D)

Summary:

Requiring certain persons licensed or regulated by the Department of Natural Resources to submit reports in accordance with regulations adopted by the Secretary of Natural Resources.

Statutes Amended:

4-206 Article - Natural Resources

### **MD - SB1122** [Environment - Coal Combustion By-Products](#)

Last Action: Text - First - Environment - Coal Combustion By-Products (February 9, 2024)

Primary Sponsor: Senator Michael A. Jackson (D)

Summary:

Requiring the owner or operator of a coal combustion by-products unit to submit certain reports and plans to the Department of the Environment and the Power Plant Research Program in the Department of Natural Resources on or before certain dates; requiring the owner or operator of a coal combustion by-products unit to conduct a drinking water survey by September 30, 2025, and submit a report of the survey to the Department of the Environment and the Power Plant Research Program by December 31, 2025; etc.

Cross-filed Bill: HB1193

Statutes Amended:

9-281,

9-293 through 9-293.11 Article - Environment