

# SENATE BILL 333

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By: **Senators Frosh and Forehand**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2007

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on Maryland's Energy Future**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Commission on Maryland's Energy Future;  
4 providing for the membership, leadership, and duties of the Commission;  
5 requiring the Commission to meet within a certain time after enactment of this  
6 Act; requiring the Commission to report to the Governor and General Assembly  
7 on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and  
8 generally relating to alternative energy use in the State.

9 Preamble

10 WHEREAS, The State depends on nonrenewable resources for its energy  
11 supplies; and

12 WHEREAS, The State's requirements for fossil fuel energy supplies are likely to  
13 increase, making Marylanders more susceptible to increased energy prices and rapid  
14 price increases; and

15 WHEREAS, The long term availability and reliability of fossil fuel resources is  
16 not assured; and

17 WHEREAS, The State's heavy reliance on fossil fuels contributes substantially  
18 to poor air quality, the degradation of the Chesapeake Bay, and to many hundreds of  
19 premature deaths every year; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The well-being of Marylanders and the health of the planet is  
2 threatened by global warming and climate change; and

3 WHEREAS, The State's reliance on fossil fuels increases our vulnerability to  
4 threats to our foreign and domestic security; and

5 WHEREAS, The State has an obligation to future generations to develop  
6 alternative sources of energy; now, therefore,

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
8 MARYLAND, That:

9 (a) There is a Commission on Maryland's Energy Future.

10 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

11 (1) a representative from the University of Maryland's Maryland  
12 Energy Research Center, appointed by the President of the University of Maryland,  
13 College Park;

14 (2) a representative from the Maryland Energy Administration,  
15 appointed by the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration;

16 (3) a representative from the Department of the Environment,  
17 appointed by the Secretary of the Environment;

18 (4) a representative from the Department of Natural Resources,  
19 appointed by the Secretary of Natural Resources;

20 (5) a representative from the Department of Agriculture, appointed by  
21 the Secretary of Agriculture; and

22 (6) a representative from the Department of Business and Economic  
23 Development, appointed by the Secretary of Business and Economic Development.

24 (c) The representatives from the University of Maryland's Maryland Energy  
25 Research Center and the Maryland Energy Administration shall jointly chair the  
26 Commission.

27 (d) The University of Maryland and the Maryland Energy Administration  
28 shall provide staff for the Commission.

29 (e) The Commission shall:

1           (1)   solicit input from stakeholders, including, where appropriate,  
2 homebuilders, public utility companies, public transit representatives, automobile  
3 dealers, members of the business community, manufacturers, energy development and  
4 investment companies, members of the environmental community, consumer groups,  
5 and college and university researchers;

6           (2)   create an inventory of existing, nonrenewable energy resources and  
7 energy production and conversion facilities, and the long-term potential supply for  
8 each type of nonrenewable energy resource, including coal, natural gas, oil, and  
9 nuclear energy;

10          (3)   project the State's need for energy for the next 5 years and for the  
11 next 20 years;

12          (4)   assess any unmet needs that occur as a result of a gap between  
13 projected energy requirements and projected available energy resources;

14          (5)   assess the potential for disruptions to traditional nonrenewable  
15 energy resources, including loss of supply, rapid price increases, and the impact of  
16 such disruptions;

17          (6)   compile a list of alternative energy options;

18          (7)   develop alternative and energy-efficient scenarios, including  
19 scenarios focusing on the use of:

20               (i)    biomass;

21               (ii)   wind and solar power;

22               (iii)   municipal solid waste; and

23               (iv)   combined heating and power (CHP);

24          (8)   evaluate statewide opportunities for increased use of alternative  
25 and efficient energy sources, considering the impacts on consumers and business, and  
26 including preferred options, and any other benefits and costs associated with the use  
27 of alternative and efficient energy sources;

28          (9)   undertake any other activities that the Commission members  
29 believe will better enable the Commission to fulfill its mission; and

1           (10) submit recommendations regarding:

2                   (i) the development of long-term energy efficiency and  
3 alternative energy strategies for the State, aimed at providing reliable, affordable  
4 energy to Maryland citizens;

5                   (ii) increasing the State's energy self-sufficiency; and

6                   (iii) reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and other  
7 pollutants.

8           (f) The Commission shall hold its first meeting within 1 month after  
9 enactment of this Act.

10           (g) On or before September 1, 2008, the Commission shall report its findings  
11 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
12 Government Article, the General Assembly.

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 June 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 6 months and, at the  
15 end of December 31, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
16 this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.