

# HOUSE BILL 118

M3

4lr0762

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By: **Delegate Luedtke**

Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2014

Assigned to: Environmental Matters and Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions – Progress Report – Ocean**  
3 **Acidification**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment to include an  
5 analysis of the best available science regarding ocean acidification and certain  
6 potential effects of acidification in a certain report; requiring the Department to  
7 make recommendations on potential strategies to mitigate certain effects of  
8 ocean acidification in a certain report; and generally relating to ocean  
9 acidification.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Environment  
12 Section 2–1209  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2013 Replacement Volume)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Environment**

18 2–1209.

19 (a) On or before October 1, 2015, the Department shall submit a report to the  
20 Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the  
21 General Assembly that includes:

22 (1) A summary of the State’s progress toward achieving the 2020  
23 emissions reduction required by the plan under § 2–1205 of this subtitle;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2)    An update on emerging technologies to reduce greenhouse gas  
2 emissions;

3           (3)    A review of the best available science, including updates by the  
4 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, regarding the level and pace of  
5 greenhouse gas emissions reductions and sequestration needed to avoid dangerous  
6 anthropogenic changes to the Earth's climate system;

7           (4)    Recommendations on the need for science-based adjustments to  
8 the requirement to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020;

9           (5)    A summary of additional or revised regulations, control programs,  
10 or incentives that are necessary to achieve the 25% reduction in statewide greenhouse  
11 gas emissions required under this subtitle, or a revised reduction recommended in  
12 accordance with item (4) of this subsection;

13           (6)    The status of any federal program to reduce greenhouse gas  
14 emissions and any transition by the State from its participation in the Regional  
15 Greenhouse Gas Initiative to a comparable federal cap and trade program; [and]

16           (7)    An analysis of the overall economic costs and benefits to the State's  
17 economy, environment, and public health of a continuation or modification of the  
18 requirement to achieve a reduction of 25% in statewide greenhouse gas emissions by  
19 2020, including reductions in other air pollutants, diversification of energy sources,  
20 the impact on existing jobs, the creation of new jobs, and expansion of the State's low  
21 carbon economy;

22           **(8)    AN ANALYSIS OF THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE REGARDING**  
23 **OCEAN ACIDIFICATION AND THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF ACIDIFICATION ON**  
24 **THE ECOLOGY OF STATE WATERS AND ON STATE FISHERIES; AND**

25           **(9)    RECOMMENDATIONS ON POTENTIAL STRATEGIES TO**  
26 **MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF ACIDIFICATION ON STATE WATERS AND ON STATE**  
27 **FISHERIES.**

28           (b)    The report required under subsection (a) of this section shall be subject to  
29 a public comment and hearing process conducted by the Department.

30           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 October 1, 2014.