

SENATE BILL 258

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CF 5lr1523

By: **Senators Pinsky, Astle, Benson, Conway, Currie, Feldman, Ferguson, Gladden, Guzzone, Kagan, Kelley, King, Klausmeier, Lee, Madaleno, Manno, McFadden, Middleton, Miller, Montgomery, Muse, Nathan-Pulliam, Peters, Pugh, Ramirez, Raskin, Rosapepe, Young, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2015

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Commission on Climate Change**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on Climate Change in the Department of
4 the Environment to advise the Governor and General Assembly on ways to mitigate
5 the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change;
6 establishing the membership of the Commission; providing for the terms of a member
7 of the Commission; authorizing the Governor to remove a member of the Commission
8 under certain circumstances; prohibiting a member of the Commission from
9 receiving certain compensation, but authorizing a member to be reimbursed for
10 certain expenses; requiring the Commission to establish certain working groups;
11 requiring the Chair of the Commission to appoint working group members who
12 represent certain public and private interests; requiring the Commission to prioritize
13 certain working group actions; requiring the Commission, on or before a certain date
14 each year, to report to the Governor and General Assembly; requiring each State
15 agency to complete a certain review in accordance with certain requirements;
16 requiring each State agency to identify and recommend certain changes to certain
17 programs under certain circumstances; requiring certain State agencies to report
18 annually to the Governor and General Assembly on the status of certain programs;
19 requiring the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science to establish
20 and update certain sea level rise projections; requiring the sea level rise projections
21 to include certain maps and to be made publicly available on the Internet; requiring
22 the Commission to be convened and the working group members to be appointed on
23 or before a certain date; requiring each working group to meet and establish a work
24 plan on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the Maryland Commission
25 on Climate Change.

26 BY adding to
27 Article – Environment

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 2–1301 through 2–1306 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 13. Maryland
2 Commission on Climate Change”
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Environment**

8 **SUBTITLE 13. MARYLAND COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE.**

9 **2–1301.**

10 (A) THERE IS A COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE DEPARTMENT
11 TO ADVISE THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON WAYS TO MITIGATE THE
12 CAUSES OF, PREPARE FOR, AND ADAPT TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE
13 CHANGE.

14 (B) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
15 SHALL JOINTLY STAFF THE COMMISSION.

16 **2–1302.**

17 (A) THE COMMISSION’S MEMBERSHIP SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING
18 20 MEMBERS:

19 (1) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY THE
20 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

21 (2) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT
22 OF THE SENATE;

23 (3) THE STATE TREASURER, OR THE STATE TREASURER’S
24 DESIGNEE;

25 (4) THE SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, OR THE SECRETARY’S
26 DESIGNEE;

27 (5) THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, OR THE SECRETARY’S
28 DESIGNEE;

29 (6) THE SECRETARY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OR THE
30 SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

1 **(7) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

2 **(8) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE**
3 **SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

4 **(9) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S**
5 **DESIGNEE;**

6 **(10) THE SECRETARY OF GENERAL SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S**
7 **DESIGNEE;**

8 **(11) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION,**
9 **OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

10 **(12) THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER**
11 **FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

12 **(13) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**
13 **AND ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES TO**
14 **REPRESENT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS;**

15 **(14) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**
16 **AND ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES TO**
17 **REPRESENT THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY;**

18 **(15) ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**
19 **AND ONE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES TO**
20 **REPRESENT ENVIRONMENTAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS;**

21 **(16) ONE CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERT APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR**
22 **REPRESENTING A UNIVERSITY LOCATED IN MARYLAND; AND**

23 **(17) ONE PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERT APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR**
24 **REPRESENTING A UNIVERSITY LOCATED IN MARYLAND.**

25 **(B) THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR**
26 **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE OR THE PRESIDENT'S DESIGNEE SHALL CHAIR THE**
27 **COMMISSION.**

28 **(C) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE TERM OF**
29 **A MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, OR**
30 **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES IS 2 YEARS.**

1 **(2) THE GOVERNOR, PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, AND SPEAKER OF**
2 **THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES SHALL STAGGER THE TERMS OF THE INITIAL**
3 **APPOINTED MEMBERS.**

4 **(3) AT THE END OF A TERM, A MEMBER CONTINUES TO SERVE UNTIL**
5 **A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES.**

6 **(4) A MEMBER WHO IS APPOINTED AFTER A TERM HAS BEGUN SERVES**
7 **ONLY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THAT TERM AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED**
8 **AND QUALIFIES.**

9 **(5) THE GOVERNOR MAY REMOVE AN APPOINTED MEMBER FOR**
10 **INCOMPETENCE, MISCONDUCT, OR FAILURE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF THE**
11 **POSITION.**

12 **(D) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION,**
13 **BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD**
14 **STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

15 **2-1303.**

16 **(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH:**

17 **(1) A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP;**

18 **(2) A GREENHOUSE GAS MITIGATION WORKING GROUP;**

19 **(3) AN ADAPTATION AND RESPONSE WORKING GROUP; AND**

20 **(4) AN EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION, AND OUTREACH WORKING**
21 **GROUP.**

22 **(B) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH OTHER WORKING GROUPS AS**
23 **NEEDED.**

24 **(C) THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION SHALL APPOINT WORKING GROUP**
25 **MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INTERESTS IN CLIMATE**
26 **CHANGE, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF:**

27 **(1) ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS;**

28 **(2) RENEWABLE AND TRADITIONAL ENERGY PROVIDERS;**

1 **(3) ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS;**

2 **(4) GOVERNMENT AGENCIES;**

3 **(5) LABOR ORGANIZATIONS; AND**

4 **(6) BUSINESS INTERESTS, INCLUDING THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY.**

5 **(D) THE COMMISSION SHALL PRIORITIZE WORKING GROUP ACTIONS,**
6 **INCLUDING:**

7 **(1) STRENGTHENING AND MAINTAINING EXISTING STATE CLIMATE**
8 **ACTION PLANS;**

9 **(2) DEVELOPING BROAD PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS WITH**
10 **LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL AGENCIES;**

11 **(3) COMMUNICATING WITH AND EDUCATING CITIZENS ABOUT THE**
12 **URGENCY OF ACTING TO REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE;**

13 **(4) MAINTAINING AN INVENTORY OF MARYLAND'S GREENHOUSE GAS**
14 **EMISSIONS SOURCES AND CARBON SINKS;**

15 **(5) ADDRESSING ANY DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE**
16 **CHANGE ON LOW-INCOME AND VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES;**

17 **(6) ASSESSING THE IMPACTS THAT CLIMATE CHANGE MAY HAVE ON**
18 **THE STATE'S ECONOMY, REVENUES, AND INVESTMENT DECISIONS;**

19 **(7) ASSESSING THE IMPACTS THAT CLIMATE CHANGE MAY HAVE ON**
20 **AGRICULTURE IN THE STATE;**

21 **(8) RECOMMENDING SHORT- AND LONG-TERM STRATEGIES AND**
22 **INITIATIVES TO BETTER MITIGATE, PREPARE FOR, AND ADAPT TO THE**
23 **CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE;**

24 **(9) ASSISTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN SUPPORTING**
25 **COMMUNITY-SCALE CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND THE**
26 **DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION OF SPECIFIC STRATEGIES INTO LOCAL PLANS**
27 **AND ORDINANCES;**

1 **(10) ESTABLISHING COMPREHENSIVE AND ACCOUNTABLE ANNUAL**
2 **WORKING GROUP WORK PLANS THAT SET ANNUAL GOALS AND PERFORMANCE**
3 **BENCHMARKS AND PRIORITIZE NEW AND EXISTING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION**
4 **AND PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES;**

5 **(11) MAINTAINING A COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN, WITH 5-YEAR**
6 **BENCHMARKS, TO ACHIEVE SCIENCE-BASED REDUCTIONS IN MARYLAND'S**
7 **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS;**

8 **(12) CONVENING REGULAR WORKING GROUP AND FULL COMMISSION**
9 **MEETINGS TO ENSURE THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ACROSS ALL**
10 **SECTORS AND COMMUNITIES IN MARYLAND; AND**

11 **(13) CONSIDERING OTHER RELATED MATTERS AS THE COMMISSION**
12 **DETERMINES TO BE NECESSARY.**

13 **2-1304.**

14 **ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 15 OF EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL**
15 **REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
16 **2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE STATUS OF THE STATE'S**
17 **EFFORTS TO MITIGATE THE CAUSES OF, PREPARE FOR, AND ADAPT TO THE**
18 **CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING FUTURE PLANS AND**
19 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION, IF ANY, TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE**
20 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

21 **2-1305.**

22 **(A) (1) EACH STATE AGENCY SHALL REVIEW ITS PLANNING,**
23 **REGULATORY, AND FISCAL PROGRAMS TO IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND ACTIONS TO**
24 **MORE FULLY INTEGRATE THE CONSIDERATION OF MARYLAND'S GREENHOUSE GAS**
25 **REDUCTION GOAL AND THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

26 **(2) THE REVIEW SHALL INCLUDE THE CONSIDERATION OF:**

27 **(I) SEA LEVEL RISE;**

28 **(II) STORM SURGES AND FLOODING;**

29 **(III) INCREASED PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE; AND**

30 **(IV) EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS.**

1 (IV) FUNDING;

2 (V) CHALLENGES;

3 (VI) ESTIMATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS, BY
4 PROGRAM, FOR THE PRIOR CALENDAR YEAR; AND

5 (VII) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE AGENCY CONSIDERS
6 RELEVANT.

7 2-1306.

8 (A) THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
9 SCIENCE SHALL ESTABLISH SCIENCE-BASED SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS FOR
10 MARYLAND'S COASTAL AREAS AND UPDATE THEM AT LEAST EVERY 5 YEARS.

11 (B) THE SCIENCE-BASED SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS SHALL INCLUDE
12 MAPS THAT INDICATE THE AREAS OF THE STATE THAT MAY BE MOST AFFECTED BY
13 STORM SURGES, FLOODING, AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS.

14 (C) THE SCIENCE-BASED SEA LEVEL RISE PROJECTIONS REQUIRED UNDER
15 THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before September 1,
17 2015, the Commission shall be convened and working group members shall be appointed.
18 On or before October 1, 2015, each working group shall meet and establish a work plan.

19 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
20 1, 2015.