

HOUSE BILL 866

P1, C5

8lr2981

By: **Delegates West and Stein**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2018

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Energy Administration – Study on Location of Solar Photovoltaic**
3 **Technologies**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to study the effect that
5 a certain increase in the State's renewable energy portfolio standard will have on the
6 State's reliance on energy from solar photovoltaic technologies; establishing certain
7 requirements for the study; requiring the Administration to solicit input from certain
8 persons in conducting the study; requiring the Administration to submit a certain
9 report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and
10 generally relating to a study on the location of solar photovoltaic technologies in the
11 State.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That:

14 (a) The Maryland Energy Administration shall study the effect that an increase
15 in the State's renewable energy portfolio standard, including the increase in the percentage
16 of energy required to be from solar energy, will have on the State's reliance on energy from
17 solar photovoltaic technologies.

18 (b) The study shall include:

19 (1) a calculation of the number of acres of agricultural land likely to be
20 developed by the installation of solar photovoltaic technologies for each 1% increase in the
21 percentage of energy required to be from Tier 1 renewable sources;

22 (2) the development of alternative programs designed to:

23 (i) disincentivize the installation of solar photovoltaic technologies
24 on productive agricultural land; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) provide incentives that encourage the installation of solar
2 photovoltaic technologies on:

3 1. the rooftops of industrial, business, and commercial
4 buildings;

5 2. the rooftops of multifamily dwellings; and

6 3. canopies constructed over parking lots; and

7 (3) cost estimates for each of the alternative programs developed under
8 item (2) of this subsection.

9 (c) In conducting the study, the Administration shall solicit input from:

10 (1) the Department of Agriculture;

11 (2) the Department of the Environment;

12 (3) the Public Service Commission;

13 (4) representatives of:

14 (i) environmental advocacy organizations;

15 (ii) land preservation organizations; and

16 (iii) land development businesses;

17 (5) Maryland citizens;

18 (6) members of the General Assembly; and

19 (7) other interested stakeholders.

20 (d) On or before December 31, 2019, the Administration shall submit a report on
21 its findings and recommendations from the study required under subsection (a) of this
22 section to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,
23 the General Assembly.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
25 1, 2018.