

# SENATE BILL 290

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8lr2036  
CF HB 230

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By: **Senators Pinsky, Rosapepe, Madaleno, Manno, Peters, and Smith**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative – Withdrawal – Legislative Approval**  
3 **Required**  
4 **(Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Extension Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of altering the circumstances under which the State may withdraw from  
6 the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative by requiring the General Assembly to enact  
7 a law approving the withdrawal; and generally relating to the Regional Greenhouse  
8 Gas Initiative.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Environment  
11 Section 2–1002(g)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Environment**

17 2–1002.

18 (g) (1) In this subsection, “allowance” means one ton of carbon dioxide that  
19 may be bought, sold, traded, or banked for use under the Regional Greenhouse Gas  
20 Initiative.

21 (2) Not later than June 30, 2007, the Governor shall include the State as a  
22 full participant in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative among Mid–Atlantic and  
23 Northeast states.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (3) The State may withdraw from the Initiative, as provided in the  
2 December 20, 2005 memorandum of understanding of the Initiative, at any time after  
3 January 1, 2009, **IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACTS A LAW TO APPROVE THE**  
4 **WITHDRAWAL.**

5           (4) If the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative expires and there is a  
6 successor organization with the same purposes and goals, the Governor is encouraged to  
7 join the State in the successor organization.

8           (5) Notwithstanding § 2–107 of this title, all of the proceeds from the sale  
9 of Maryland allowances under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative shall be deposited  
10 in the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund under § 9–20B–05 of the State  
11 Government Article.

12           (6) If the State’s participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative  
13 ceases for any reason, the Governor shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance  
14 with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, regarding:

15                   (i) Why participation ceased; and

16                   (ii) A plan to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in  
17 the State that considers the use of Maryland grown, native, warm season grasses as a  
18 possible method of reducing carbon emissions.

19           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2018.