

Chapter 8

(Senate Bill 290)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

Article – Environment

2–1002.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(i) Why participation ceased; and

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

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

Approved by the Governor, April 5, 2018.