

Chapter 627

(House Bill 3)

AN ACT concerning

Environment – U.S. Climate Alliance – Membership

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include the State as a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance on or before a certain date; prohibiting the Governor from withdrawing the State from the U.S. Climate Alliance unless the General Assembly enacts a law approving the withdrawal; requiring the Governor to report to certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year, beginning on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the U.S. Climate Alliance.

BY adding to

Article – Environment

Section 2–1401 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 14. U.S. Climate Alliance”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, 195 countries signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, including by holding the increase in the global average temperature to be below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels; and

WHEREAS, The United States signed the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump’s Administration has announced its intent to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The Healthy Air Act included Maryland in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; and

WHEREAS, The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act requires Maryland to reduce emissions by 40% by 2030; and

WHEREAS, ~~Only international~~ International cooperation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions ~~can~~ is essential, along with regional, state, and local actions to mitigate climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, ~~14~~ 15 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have joined the U.S. Climate Alliance, committing to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Maryland intends to share its insights, experiences, and strategies with the U.S. Climate Alliance in meeting and excelling beyond the requirements of the Paris Agreement and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hogan has made it clear he disagreed with the President's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement; now, therefore,

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

Article – Environment

SUBTITLE 14. U.S. CLIMATE ALLIANCE.

2–1401.

(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2018, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE THE STATE AS A MEMBER OF THE U.S. CLIMATE ALLIANCE.

(2) THE GOVERNOR MAY WITHDRAW THE STATE FROM THE U.S. CLIMATE ALLIANCE ONLY IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACTS A LAW TO APPROVE THE WITHDRAWAL.

(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2018, AND ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL REPORT TO THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE STATE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE U.S. CLIMATE ALLIANCE, INCLUDING:

(1) ANY COLLABORATIONS OR PARTNERSHIPS AMONG THE ALLIANCE MEMBERS OR EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS; AND

(2) ANY POLICIES OR PROGRAMS THAT THE ALLIANCE HAS ENDORSED, UNDERTAKEN, OR CONSIDERED.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 15, 2018.