

# HOUSE BILL 600

M5, C5

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Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 16, 2019

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Tier 1 Renewable Source – Nuclear~~  
3 ~~Energy~~  
4 Study on the Future of Nuclear Energy in Maryland

5 FOR the purpose of ~~including nuclear energy in the energy sources that may be used to~~  
6 ~~satisfy the renewable energy portfolio standard; altering the definition of “Tier 1~~  
7 ~~renewable source” to include nuclear energy; and generally relating to the renewable~~  
8 ~~energy portfolio standard~~ requiring the Power Plant Research Program to study and  
9 make recommendations regarding nuclear energy and its role as a renewable energy  
10 resource in the State; requiring the Program to submit an interim report to the  
11 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; requiring the  
12 Program to report certain findings and recommendations to the Governor and the  
13 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this  
14 Act; and generally relating to the Study on the Future of Nuclear Energy in  
15 Maryland.

16 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~  
17 ~~Article – Public Utilities~~  
18 ~~Section 7-701(a) and 7-704(a)(1)~~  
19 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
20 ~~(2010 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

21 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~  
22 ~~Article – Public Utilities~~

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



~~Section 7-701(r)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

Preamble

WHEREAS, In an effort to solve climate change, Maryland must seek common-sense solutions; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear energy is the only base-load power source that is completely carbon emissions free; and

WHEREAS, As the host of the Paris Climate Accords, France employs nuclear energy as its primary source of base-load power; and

WHEREAS, Emerging nuclear technologies such as traveling wave reactors allow for waste-free energy; and

WHEREAS, Powering the economy with nuclear energy will result in Maryland being completely carbon emissions free; and

WHEREAS, Nuclear energy is cheaper and reduces consumer electricity bills; now, therefore,

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

~~Article — Public Utilities~~

~~7-701.~~

~~(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(r) "Tier 1 renewable source" means one or more of the following types of energy sources:~~

~~(1) solar energy, including energy from photovoltaic technologies and solar water heating systems;~~

~~(2) wind;~~

~~(3) qualifying biomass;~~

~~(4) methane from the anaerobic decomposition of organic materials in a landfill or wastewater treatment plant;~~

1 ~~(5) geothermal, including energy generated through geothermal exchange~~  
 2 ~~from or thermal energy avoided by, groundwater or a shallow ground source;~~

3 ~~(6) ocean, including energy from waves, tides, currents, and thermal~~  
 4 ~~differences;~~

5 ~~(7) a fuel cell that produces electricity from a Tier 1 renewable source~~  
 6 ~~under item (3) or (4) of this subsection;~~

7 ~~(8) a small hydroelectric power plant of less than 30 megawatts in capacity~~  
 8 ~~that is licensed or exempt from licensing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;~~

9 ~~(9) poultry litter to energy;~~

10 ~~(10) waste to energy;~~

11 ~~(11) refuse derived fuel; [and]~~

12 ~~(12) thermal energy from a thermal biomass system; AND~~

13 ~~(13) NUCLEAR ENERGY.~~

14 ~~7-704.~~

15 ~~(a) (1) Energy from a Tier 1 renewable source:~~

16 ~~(i) is eligible for inclusion in meeting the renewable energy portfolio~~  
 17 ~~standard regardless of when the generating system or facility was placed in service; and~~

18 ~~(ii) may be applied to the percentage requirements of the standard~~  
 19 ~~for either Tier 1 renewable sources or Tier 2 renewable sources.~~

20 (a) The Power Plant Research Program shall:

21 (1) conduct a study of nuclear energy and its role as a renewable energy  
 22 resource that can effectively combat climate change in the State;

23 (2) include in the study:

24 (i) an evaluation and summary of the current state of nuclear  
 25 energy in Maryland;

26 (ii) an identification of the benefits of nuclear energy usage in  
 27 Maryland and the environmental benefits that may help to combat climate change;

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1 (iii) an assessment of emerging nuclear energy technologies,  
2 including traveling-wave reactors, that may enhance the potential of nuclear energy as a  
3 viable renewable energy resource;

4 (iv) an assessment of countries and other states in which nuclear  
5 energy makes up more than 50% of total energy production that:

6 1. includes an analysis of the carbon emission reductions  
7 undertaken by these countries or states; and

8 2. examines how these countries or states have paired  
9 nuclear energy with other alternative renewable energy resources;

10 (v) an identification of the potential for a new nuclear power  
11 initiative to be deployed within the State using one or more nuclear technologies that  
12 include:

13 1. major barriers to deploying a successful nuclear power  
14 initiative; and

15 2. a time frame for deploying a successful nuclear power  
16 initiative;

17 (vi) an assessment of the practicality of adding nuclear energy to  
18 Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard; and

19 (vii) recommendations regarding initiatives for the State and the  
20 General Assembly to responsibly and efficiently grow the nuclear energy industry in the  
21 State, support new emerging nuclear energy technologies that may improve nuclear energy  
22 as a viable renewable energy resource, and utilize nuclear energy as a resource to help the  
23 State combat climate change.

24 ~~(b) On or before January 1, 2020, the Program shall submit an interim report to~~  
25 ~~the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the~~  
26 ~~General Assembly.~~

27 ~~(e) (b)~~ (b) On or before December 31 January 1, 2020, the Program shall report its  
28 official findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of  
29 the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
31 October 1, 2019. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September  
32 30, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be  
33 abrogated and of no further force and effect.