

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Enrolled - Revised**

House Bill 586  
Economic Matters

(Delegate Wilson)

Finance

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**Public Safety – Solar Photovoltaic Systems – Lockout Tag Requirement and Study**

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This bill requires each company that installs solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to install a lockout tag at each residential installation at the time of installation. By December 1, 2019, the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation (DLLR) must report related information to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** DLLR can handle the bill’s requirements with existing budgeted resources. The bill does not otherwise materially affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** DLLR must report on the advisability of requiring:

- the provision of lockout tags, as defined by the bill, to residential customers with solar PV systems installed on their property;
- the provision of notice about the safety benefits of lockout tags to residential customers with solar PV systems installed on their property; and

- any other more effective method of making customers aware of the safety benefits of lockout tags to residential customers with solar PV systems installed on their property.

DLLR must also report on the most effective method of implementing any recommendation made above.

**Current Law/Background:** There is no requirement that a solar company install a lockout tag on a solar PV system. As of February 2019, there were about 61,000 solar installations in the State, the vast majority of which are small residential installations.

The policing of the electrical profession primarily occurs through locally issued permits and locally conducted inspections. Every county in Maryland has a building permit office, the primary function of which is to issue a permit that gives the right to perform specific work on a designated site or project. The permit office sends an inspector to each ongoing project to ensure that work on the project complies with applicable codes. Noncompliance with established standards is normally addressed between the inspector and the licensed electrician, who is expected to bring the project up to code. If the individual does not remedy the problem, the inspector may report the violation to the applicable licensing board.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 1486 of 2018, a similar bill, passed the House with amendments and received a hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. No further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Washington County; Maryland Association of Counties; PJM Environmental Information Services, Inc.; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2019  
mm/lgc Third Reader - April 3, 2019  
Enrolled - April 30, 2019  
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 30, 2019

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