

Amendments to SB887/HB1545:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Explanation: Updates page 1 of the bill to reflect the changes below.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

These amendments are mostly technical in nature except the following which are explained below and were drafted to address stakeholder concerns:

On page 4, in line 1 to 13:

Explanation:

- Addresses concern that an impacted county who could qualify to apply for funds from the Fossil Fuel Community Transition Account may extend beyond those where the electric generating units are located because of residency of displaced workers or economic impact of supply chain or maintenance activity.
- More clearly defines “a displaced worker” and “wage differential benefit” and is based on language from legislation passed in New Mexico. Additional language clarifies inclusion of workers from a coal mine or supply chain to the coal electric generating unit.

On pages 5 thru 7:

Explanation:

- Provides more specificity and guidance for the distribution of funds in the Workforce and Community Transition Account, including requirements that:
 - 40% of the funds are support for impacted workers including, but is not limited to, wage differential benefits, paid training and apprenticeship programs as identified in Maryland Department of the Environment public reports on fossil fuel transition, and payments to workers within 3 years of retirement age.
 - 20% of the funds are dedicated to site remediation and redevelopment projects that hire using fair labor standards
 - 20% of the funds are dedicated to clean energy, energy efficiency, or LEED Certified or energy efficiency buildings that hire using fair labor standards
 - 20% of the funds are dedicated to being awarded to counties that apply for tax-base relief as a result of the loss of a facility

On page 5 lines 14 and 15:

Explanation: To transition current union employees to new union jobs, this amendment requires employers receiving funds from the Workforce and Community Transition Account Board to hire union subcontractors or to follow a universal organizing neutrality agreement.

On page 5 line 16 thru page 6 line 12:

Explanation: Alters the make up of the Fossil Fuel Transition Account Advisory Board, per stakeholder feedback, to include only two members representing counties and to increase labor representative to three members.

On page 7 line 10:

- Explanation: To address the concern of how to adequately planning to support and transition an unknown number of displaced workers, this amendment requires the coal power plant owners to report to the Account's Board the total number of employee layoffs and the titles of the positions or before December 1 of each year.