



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Senate Bill 655

High Performance and Green Buildings - Community Colleges and Public Schools - Repeal of Requirements and Guidelines

CBF POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 19, 2020

To: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation SUPPORTS SB 655 as a correction of the unintended walk back on high-performance green building standards for Maryland's schools and community colleges. This bill repeals new guidelines that weakened requirements for green building and energy efficiency and create a waiver from requirements.

Green building and energy efficiency in buildings help confront climate change. The reduction of climate-impacting greenhouse gases is critical to achieving Bay clean-up goals.

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation supports legislation to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the State's public schools and community colleges. As described in *Towards a zero-emission, efficient, and resilient buildings and construction sector*, "Multiple opportunities exist to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in the buildings and construction sector. The energy and emissions savings potential in buildings remains largely untapped due to continued use of less efficient technologies, alongside lack of effective policies and weak investments in sustainable buildings and construction in many countries." (United Nations' Environment 2017 Global Status Report).

This bill reinstates green building and high-performance energy standards as requirements for public school construction in Maryland. These requirements recommended by the Maryland Green Building Council in the High Performing Green Building Program were first instituted in 2008.

For these reasons, CBF urges a FAVORABLE report on SB 655. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Robin Clark Eilenberg, Staff Attorney at 443.482.2165 or reilenberg@cbf.org.

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The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 300,000 members and e-subscribers, including over 107,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.