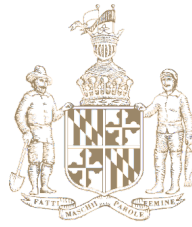


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—
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Joint Committee on Federal Relations

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund
("G.R.E.E.N.") (SB169)**

Assigned to the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 1:00pm

We are in the midst of a climate crisis, and solving it requires the work of governments, nonprofit organizations, and individuals. Existing law makes businesses eligible to receive tax credits for upgrading to renewable energy systems. However, nonprofits— because they are tax-exempt— are excluded.

Upgrading to renewable energy is too expensive for many nonprofit organizations, and there is no financial incentive for them to take on such a high cost. This is a hindrance to achieving the State's climate goals.

This bill— Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program and Fund ("G.R.E.E.N.")— would create an interest-free, revolving loan fund housed within the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). It would help nonprofits transition to renewable energy systems.

"G.R.E.E.N." proposes that in FY 2026, the Governor **may** appropriate five million dollars for the Fund. In FY 2027, the Governor **may** include an appropriation of at least five million dollars minus the remainder from the previous fiscal year.

This bill has passed the Senate unanimously twice. In fact, the 2022 bill inspired part of the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, creating two loan programs to help organizations upgrade to renewable energy— [\\$500](#) million for public schools, and [\\$50](#) million for nonprofits.

The MEA has technical clarifying amendments I support. SB169 gives discretion to MEA to establish regulations, and I am grateful for their willingness to manage this program.

Let's pass the bill again this year, so that the House of Delegates has plenty of time to review, consider, and approve it.

I urge a favorable report on SB169 as amended.