



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 1296

DATE: February 27, 2024

SPONSOR: Delegate Wilson

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Favorable (Department of Environmental Protection)

Electricity - Offshore Wind Projects - Alterations

Wind power is a clean, renewable, domestic resource poised to play a critical role in powering our economy, creating jobs in Maryland, improving public health, and achieving our climate goals. Offshore wind offers a major opportunity to bring more renewable energy onto the grid, while minimizing conflicts with forest and agricultural land uses. Wind lease areas have been identified, and offshore wind projects are currently under development off the coast of Maryland in the Atlantic Ocean.

In the recent wake of one major offshore wind developer announcing a change in plans regarding future Maryland projects, this legislation will enable adjustments to help ensure achievement of new offshore wind projects. The bill will direct the Maryland Public Service Commission to open a revised Round 2 Offshore Wind Project Proceeding for the purpose of evaluating revised project schedules, sizes, or pricing for previously approved projects.

We respectfully request that the Economic Matters Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 1296.