



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

March 3, 2026

BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 1532 - FIRST READER

SHORT TITLE: CONTINUING THE NEXT GENERATION ENERGY ACT

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

HB 1532 addresses several aspects of Maryland's energy regulations landscape. Marylanders have seen significant increases in their energy bills in recent years. This legislation identifies grid infrastructure gaps, ratepayer protection, and administrative efficiency, which could help to lower costs for the average ratepayer. Specifically, the bill identifies a generation gap caused by the retirement of older coal and oil plants and develops a proposed State-level zoning or permitting structure designed to promote "fast-tracked" development at the identified priority sites.

Additionally, the bill requires a study by the Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) on streamlining energy development permitting by identifying up to 50 energy sites suitable for new or expanded generating stations or energy storage. This study has an effective date of December 31, 2026, which is a tight deadline and would be difficult to meet with existing resources.

The amendments introduced by the Maryland Energy Administration would help prevent unintended consequences for Maryland's broader business community and would provide the Public Service Commission additional flexibility when it comes to implementing Maryland's EmPOWER program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The PSC relies on PPRP for an independent technical, environmental, and socioeconomic analysis. PPRP has seen a nearly 1,000% increase in Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) cases in recent years, which has put a strain on existing resources.

In December of 2025, Governor Moore signed Executive Order 01.01.2025.27, entitled "Building an Affordable and Reliable Energy Future." This EO established the Maryland Energy Advisory Council and the Maryland Energy Site-Readiness Initiative, which requires PPRP, in coordination with the Departments of Commerce, Environment, Planning, and the Maryland Energy Administration, to identify ways that the state could shift from "reactive permitting to proactive deployment." The work being done by this Council and the Initiative will provide essential insight into Maryland's energy market moving forward and overlaps with the study within this bill.

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BILL EXPLANATION

HB 1532 is a comprehensive bill that modifies various aspects of the state's energy regulations, focusing on rate schedules, energy efficiency, and nuclear energy.