
By: **Delegates Doory, Feldman, and Moe**
Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2006
Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Solar Energy Grant Fund**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Solar Energy Grant Fund to be administered by
4 the Maryland Energy Administration under Public Service Commission
5 oversight for certain purposes; requiring the State Treasurer and the State
6 Comptroller to perform certain functions related to the Solar Energy Grant
7 Fund; authorizing the Solar Energy Grant Fund to be used for grants to eligible
8 projects; limiting the amount of funds that may be used for certain
9 administrative expenses; providing that certain money expended from the Solar
10 Energy Grant Fund is supplemental to funding that otherwise would be
11 appropriated for the Solar Energy Grant Program; requiring a certain amount of
12 money to be paid from the Environmental Trust Fund to the Solar Energy Grant
13 Fund under certain circumstances; requiring that a certain percentage of
14 certain compliance fees be paid into the Maryland Renewable Energy Fund and
15 a certain percentage of certain compliance fees be paid into the Solar Energy
16 Grant Fund; limiting the amount of certain compliance fees that may be paid
17 into the Solar Energy Grant Fund; and generally relating to the Solar Energy
18 Grant Fund.

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
20 Article - Natural Resources
21 Section 3-302(a)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
25 Article - Natural Resources
26 Section 3-302(c)(2)
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

29 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
30 Article - Public Utility Companies
31 Section 7-705

1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (1998 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
4 Article - State Government
5 Section 9-2007
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

8 BY adding to
9 Article - State Government
10 Section 9-2007.1
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Natural Resources**

16 3-302.

17 (a) There is an Environmental Trust Fund. For the purpose of this subtitle,
18 there is established as an added cost of electricity distributed to retail electric
19 customers within the State, an environmental surcharge per kilowatt hour of electric
20 energy distributed in the State to be paid by any electric company as defined in §
21 1-101 of the Public Utility Companies Article. The Public Service Commission shall
22 impose the surcharge per kilowatt hour of electric energy distributed to retail electric
23 customers within the State and shall authorize the electric companies to add the full
24 amount of the surcharge to retail electric customers' bills. To the extent that the
25 surcharge is not collected from retail electric customers, the surcharge shall be
26 deemed a cost of distribution and shall be allowed and computed as such, together
27 with other allowable expenses, for rate-making purposes. Revenues from the
28 surcharge shall be collected by the Comptroller and placed in the Fund.

29 (c) (2) (I) Moneys in the Fund may be used for administrative costs
30 calculated in accordance with § 1-103(b)(2) of this article.

31 (II) ON JULY 1 OF EACH YEAR, IF THE BALANCE OF THE SOLAR
32 ENERGY GRANT FUND IS LESS THAN \$1,000,000, THE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER
33 FROM THE FUND TO THE SOLAR ENERGY GRANT FUND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY
34 NEEDED TO BRING THAT BALANCE TO \$1,000,000.

35 (III) THE AMOUNT TRANSFERRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF
36 THIS PARAGRAPH IS CALCULATED BY SUBTRACTING FROM \$1,000,000 THE AMOUNT
37 OF THE COMPLIANCE FEES PAID INTO THE SOLAR ENERGY GRANT FUND UNDER §
38 7-705(B)(2) OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES ARTICLE DURING THE PRECEDING
39 FISCAL YEAR.

Article - Public Utility Companies

1
2 7-705.

3 (a) Each electricity supplier shall submit a report to the Commission each
4 year in a form and by a date specified by the Commission that:

5 (1) demonstrates that the electricity supplier has complied with the
6 applicable renewable energy portfolio standard under § 7-703 of this subtitle and
7 includes the submission of the required amount of renewable energy credits; or

8 (2) demonstrates the amount of electricity sales by which the electricity
9 supplier failed to meet the applicable renewable energy portfolio standard.

10 (b) (1) If an electricity supplier fails to comply with the renewable energy
11 portfolio standard for the applicable year, the electricity supplier shall pay [into the
12 Maryland Renewable Energy Fund established under § 7-707 of this subtitle]:

13 [(1)] (I) except as provided in [paragraph (2)] SUBPARAGRAPH (II) of
14 this [subsection] PARAGRAPH, a compliance fee of:

15 [(i)] 1. 2 cents for each kilowatt-hour of shortfall from required
16 Tier 1 renewable sources; and

17 [(ii)] 2. 1.5 cents for each kilowatt-hour of shortfall from required
18 Tier 2 renewable sources; or

19 [(2)] (II) for industrial process load:

20 [(i)] 1. for each kilowatt-hour of shortfall from required Tier 1
21 renewable sources, a compliance fee of:

22 [1.] A. 0.8 cents in 2006, 2007, and 2008;

23 [2.] B. 0.5 cents in 2009 and 2010;

24 [3.] C. 0.4 cents in 2011 and 2012;

25 [4.] D. 0.3 cents in 2013 and 2014;

26 [5.] E. 0.25 cents in 2015 and 2016; and

27 [6.] F. 0.2 cents in 2017 and later; and

28 [(ii)] 2. nothing for any shortfall from required Tier 2 renewable
29 sources.

30 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, OF
31 THE COMPLIANCE FEES PAID IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
32 SUBSECTION, ONE-HALF SHALL BE PAID INTO THE MARYLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY
33 FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7-707 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND ONE-HALF SHALL BE

1 PAID INTO THE SOLAR ENERGY GRANT FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-2007.1 OF THE
2 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

3 (3) NOT MORE THAN \$1,000,000 OF THE COMPLIANCE FEES PAID IN
4 ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE PAID INTO THE
5 SOLAR ENERGY GRANT FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-2007.1 OF THE STATE
6 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

7 (c) The Commission may allow an electricity supplier to submit the report
8 required under § 7-505(b)(4) of this title to demonstrate compliance with the
9 renewable energy portfolio standard.

10 (d) An aggregator or broker who assists an electricity customer in purchasing
11 electricity but who does not supply the electricity or take title to or ownership of the
12 electricity may require the electricity supplier who supplies the electricity to
13 demonstrate compliance with this subtitle.

14 **Article - State Government**

15 9-2007.

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) "Photovoltaic property" means solar energy property that uses a solar
18 photovoltaic process to generate electricity and that meets applicable performance
19 and quality standards and certification requirements in effect at the time of
20 acquisition of the property, as specified by the Maryland Energy Administration.

21 (3) "Program" means the Solar Energy Grant Program.

22 (4) (i) "Solar energy property" means equipment that uses solar
23 energy:

24 1. to generate electricity;

25 2. to heat or cool a structure or provide hot water for use in a
26 structure; or

27 3. to provide solar process heat.

28 (ii) "Solar energy property" does not include a swimming pool, hot
29 tub, or any other energy storage medium that has a function other than storage.

30 (5) "Solar water heating property" means solar energy property that:

31 (i) when installed in connection with a structure, uses solar energy
32 for the purpose of providing hot water for use within the structure; and

1 (ii) meets applicable performance and quality standards and
2 certification requirements in effect at the time of acquisition of the property, as
3 specified by the Maryland Energy Administration.

4 (b) There is a Solar Energy Grant Program in the Administration.

5 (c) The purpose of the Program is to provide grants to individuals, local
6 governments, and businesses for a portion of the costs of acquiring and installing
7 photovoltaic property and solar water heating property.

8 (d) The Administration shall:

9 (1) administer the Program;

10 (2) establish application procedures for the Program; and

11 (3) award grants from the Program.

12 (e) A grant awarded under the Program may not exceed:

13 (1) for photovoltaic property installed on residential property, the lesser
14 of \$3,000 or 20% of the total installed cost of the photovoltaic property;

15 (2) for photovoltaic property installed on nonresidential property, the
16 lesser of \$5,000 or 20% of the total installed cost of the photovoltaic property; and

17 (3) for solar water heating property, the lesser of \$2,000 or 20% of the
18 total installed cost of the solar water heating property.

19 9-2007.1.

20 (A) THERE IS A SOLAR ENERGY GRANT FUND.

21 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS, LOCAL
22 GOVERNMENTS, AND BUSINESSES TO ACQUIRE AND INSTALL PHOTOVOLTAIC
23 PROPERTY AND SOLAR WATER HEATING PROPERTY.

24 (C) SUBJECT TO OVERSIGHT BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, THE
25 ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

26 (D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT
27 TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

28 (2) THE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY AND THE
29 COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

30 (E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:

31 (1) COMPLIANCE FEES PAID UNDER § 7-705 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY
32 COMPANIES ARTICLE;

1 (2) MONEY TRANSFERRED TO THE FUND FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL
2 TRUST FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 3-302 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE
3 AND § 7-203 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES ARTICLE;

4 (3) INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND

5 (4) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED FOR THE
6 BENEFIT OF THE FUND.

7 (F) (1) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY TO AWARD GRANTS UNDER THE
8 SOLAR ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9-2007 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

9 (2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE
10 ADMINISTRATION MAY ALLOW THE USE OF MONEY OF THE FUND FOR
11 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES RELATED TO THE FUND AND PROJECT REVIEW AND
12 OVERSIGHT.

13 (II) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT SPEND MORE THAN 10% OF
14 THE FUNDS PLACED IN THE FUND FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

15 (G) (1) THE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND IN THE
16 SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

17 (2) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE CREDITED TO
18 THE FUND.

19 (H) MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR THE SOLAR ENERGY GRANT
20 PROGRAM IS SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF
21 FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE SOLAR ENERGY
22 GRANT PROGRAM.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2006.