
By: **Senators Garagiola, Brochin, Forehand, Giannetti, Green, Grosfeld, Hollinger, Kelley, Kramer, McFadden, Ruben, and Teitelbaum**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2006

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mandatory Participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include the State in the Regional
4 Greenhouse Gas Initiative; requiring the Governor to make a certain report
5 under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the Regional Greenhouse
6 Gas Initiative and regional greenhouse gas emissions.

7 Preamble

8 WHEREAS, There is a seven-state coalition, called the Regional Greenhouse
9 Gas Initiative (RGGI), which includes Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut,
10 Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, and which was created to discuss the design of
11 a regional cap-and-trade program to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from
12 power plants in the region; and

13 WHEREAS, There is a growing scientific consensus that climate change and
14 global warming are largely the result of emissions of carbon dioxide and other
15 greenhouse gases from human activities, including industrial processes, fossil fuel
16 combustion, and changes in land use, such as deforestation; and

17 WHEREAS, It is the intent of the General Assembly to reduce emissions of
18 carbon dioxide from power plants in the State 10% below current levels by 2018; and

19 WHEREAS, The RGGI has established goals to cap carbon dioxide pollution
20 from power plants between 2009 and 2015, followed by further reductions between
21 2015 and 2018; and

22 WHEREAS, The RGGI has established internal procedures to determine if and
23 how observer states, such as Maryland, may become member states; and

24 WHEREAS, In 2003, the Governor of Maryland declined to include the State as
25 a participating member in the RGGI; now, therefore,

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That the Governor shall include the State as a participating member in
3 the RGGI.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if the Governor has not
5 negotiated the State's entrance into RGGI by September 30, 2006, the Governor shall
6 report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government
7 Article, no later than October 7, 2006 regarding:

8 (1) why negotiations to include the State in RGGI failed; and
9 (2) a plan, independent of RGGI, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions
10 from power plants in the State 10% below current levels by 2018.

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 June 1, 2006.