

HOUSE BILL 978

C8, M3

71r2395

By: **Delegates Stein, Cardin, V. Clagett, George, Lawton, Mizeur, and Morhaim**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2007

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Energy Administration – Renewable Energy Small Business Grant**
3 **Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Renewable Energy Small Business Grant
5 Program in the Maryland Energy Administration to provide grants to certain
6 small businesses for the usage of renewable energy resources; requiring the
7 Maryland Energy Administration to administer the Program, establish certain
8 procedures, and award grants from the Program in a certain manner;
9 establishing the intent of the General Assembly regarding funding for the
10 Program; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Renewable
11 Energy Small Business Grant Program and renewable energy resources.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Public Utility Companies
14 Section 1–101(aa)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1998 Volume and 2006 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – State Government
19 Section 9–2009
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2006 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Public Utility Companies**

4 1–101.

5 (aa) “Renewable energy resource” means one or more of the following sources
6 of energy, energy technology, or related credit:

- 7 (1) solar;
- 8 (2) wind;
- 9 (3) tidal;
- 10 (4) geothermal;
- 11 (5) biomass, including waste-to-energy and landfill gas recovery;
- 12 (6) hydroelectric facilities;
- 13 (7) digester gas; and
- 14 (8) a manufacturing or commercial waste-to-energy system or facility.

15 **Article – State Government**

16 **9–2009.**

17 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
18 MEANINGS INDICATED.

19 (2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SMALL
20 BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM.

21 (3) “RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE” MEANS A RENEWABLE
22 ENERGY RESOURCE AS DEFINED IN § 1–101(AA) OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY
23 COMPANIES ARTICLE.

1 **(4) "SMALL BUSINESS" MEANS A BUSINESS OPERATING WITHIN**
2 **THE STATE THAT EMPLOYS 50 OR FEWER EMPLOYEES.**

3 **(B) THERE IS A RENEWABLE ENERGY SMALL BUSINESS GRANT**
4 **PROGRAM IN THE ADMINISTRATION.**

5 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO**
6 **ENCOURAGE THE USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES AMONG SMALL**
7 **BUSINESSES THAT HAVE BEEN IN OPERATION FOR NOT MORE THAN 5 YEARS.**

8 **(D) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:**

9 **(1) ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM;**

10 **(2) ESTABLISH APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE PROGRAM;**
11 **AND**

12 **(3) AWARD GRANTS FROM THE PROGRAM.**

13 **(E) A GRANT AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL BE MADE FOR**
14 **\$100 PER INCREMENT OF 10% OF THE TOTAL ENERGY USED EACH YEAR BY THE**
15 **SMALL BUSINESS THAT IS CLASSIFIED AS A RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, for fiscal year 2008,
17 funding for the Renewable Energy Small Business Grant Program shall be as provided
18 in the State budget. It is the intent of the General Assembly that beginning in fiscal
19 year 2009, not more than \$250,000 shall be included annually in the State budget for
20 the Renewable Energy Small Business Grant Program.

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 July 1, 2007.