

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 797

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike in their entirety lines 2 and 3 and substitute “Thermal Energy – Task Force and Regulations”; strike beginning with “providing” in line 4 down through “systems” in line 15 and substitute “establishing the Maryland Thermal Renewable Energy Credit Task Force; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to analyze how to restructure the renewable energy portfolio standard to incorporate certain thermal energy sources; requiring the Task Force to make certain determinations and consider the impact of certain changes; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of the Task Force; requiring the Department of the Environment to publish certain regulations to facilitate the commissioning of certain solid fuel boilers in the State under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the establishment of the Maryland Thermal Renewable Energy Credit Task Force and the regulation of thermal energy”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 and 2, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 16 on page 1 through line 9 on page 2, and substitute:

“SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

- (a) There is a Maryland Thermal Renewable Energy Credit Task Force.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following 14 members:

(Over)

- (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- (3) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration;
- (4) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- (5) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;
- (6) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;
- (7) the Executive Director of the Technical Staff of the Maryland Public Service Commission, or the Executive Director's designee; and
- (8) the following seven members, appointed by the Governor:
 - (i) one representative of the solar industry;
 - (ii) one representative of the animal-waste bioenergy industry;
 - (iii) one representative of the geothermal industry;
 - (iv) one representative of the forest products industry;
 - (v) one representative from the Sustainable Forestry Council;

(vi) one representative of the biomass thermal energy industry; and

(vii) one representative of the environmental community.

(c) The Director of the Maryland Energy Administration shall be the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Maryland Energy Administration shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) In accordance with subsection (g) of this section, the Task Force shall:

(1) analyze how to restructure the renewable energy portfolio standard under Title 7, Subtitle 7 of the Public Utilities Article to incorporate thermal energy sources, including energy derived from wood-derived biomass;

(2) determine whether it is appropriate to create a separate compliance tier for thermal energy sources;

(3) determine an appropriate method of awarding renewable energy credits for thermal energy sources, including energy derived from wood-derived biomass; and

(4) determine any other changes to State law that the Task Force deems appropriate to incorporate thermal energy sources in the renewable energy portfolio standard.

(g) In conducting the analysis and determinations required under subsection (f) of this section, the Task Force shall consider the impact of any proposed changes on:

(1) the State's ability to:

(i) meet the greenhouse gas reduction goal under § 2-1204 of the Environment Article;

(ii) achieve the goals set forth in the State's renewable energy portfolio standards under § 7-703 of the Public Utilities Article; and

(iii) utilize wood-derived biomass to help meet the State's renewable energy goals, consistent with § 5-102 of the Natural Resources Article; and

(2) any other factor the Task Force deems appropriate.

(h) On or before December 31, 2013, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of the Environment shall publish by October 1, 2013, a proposed regulation revising COMAR 26.11.09.04 to facilitate the commissioning of small- to medium-scale solid fuel boilers in the State that meet environmental standards that the Department of the Environment deems appropriate.”.

On pages 2 through 7, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 10 on page 2 through line 23 on page 7.

On page 7, in line 25, strike “January 1, 2014” and substitute “June 1, 2013”.