

# HOUSE BILL 1486

E4, C5

8lr2982

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By: **Delegate McComas**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 2018

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Solar Photovoltaic Systems – Lockout Tag Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a company that installs solar photovoltaic systems to install  
4 a certain lockout tag containing a safety warning under certain circumstances;  
5 ~~requiring a certain company to provide a certain customer with a certain lockout tag~~  
6 ~~for a solar photovoltaic system that has previously been installed;~~ providing for the  
7 enforcement of this Act; establishing a penalty for certain violations of this Act;  
8 specifying that a local government shall retain certain funds; defining certain terms;  
9 providing for the application of this Act; providing for the termination of this Act;  
10 and generally relating to safety warnings for solar photovoltaic installations.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Public Safety

13 Section 12–705

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2011 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Public Safety**

19 **12–705.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 (2) "KNIFE BLADE DISCONNECT SWITCH BOX" MEANS A CONTROL  
4 PANEL FOR A SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC INSTALLATION AT A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

5 (3) "LOCKOUT TAG" MEANS A TAG THAT:

6 (I) SEALS A KNIFE BLADE DISCONNECT SWITCH BOX CLOSED;

7 (II) IS ATTACHED TO THE EXTERIOR OF THE KNIFE BLADE  
8 DISCONNECT SWITCH BOX WITH A METAL OR PLASTIC STRAP; AND

9 (III) INCLUDES A SAFETY WARNING ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR  
10 ELECTROCUTION IF AN INDIVIDUAL REMOVES THE LOCKOUT TAG OR TOUCHES THE  
11 CONTENTS OF THE KNIFE BLADE DISCONNECT SWITCH BOX.

12 (B) ~~(1)~~ A COMPANY THAT INSTALLS SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS  
13 SHALL INSTALL A LOCKOUT TAG AT EACH RESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION AT THE TIME  
14 OF INSTALLATION.

15 ~~(2) A COMPANY THAT HAS PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED A SOLAR  
16 PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM ON A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY SHALL PROVIDE THE  
17 CUSTOMER WITH A LOCKOUT TAG WITH DIRECTIONS ON HOW THE LOCKOUT TAG  
18 SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO THE KNIFE BLADE DISCONNECT SWITCH BOX.~~

19 (C) (1) A COMPANY THAT INSTALLS SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS  
20 SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY OF AT LEAST \$100 BUT  
21 NOT MORE THAN \$500 IF THE COMPANY FAILS TO:

22 ~~(I) INSTALL A LOCKOUT TAG ON A NEW INSTALLATION; OR~~

23 ~~(II) PROVIDE TO A CUSTOMER A LOCKOUT TAG FOR A SOLAR  
24 PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM THAT THE COMPANY PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED.~~

25 (2) THE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS REQUIRED TO INSPECT A SOLAR  
26 PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEM FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE CODE STANDARDS  
27 SHALL ENFORCE THE REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

28 (3) THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT PERFORMS OR OVERSEES THE  
29 INSPECTION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL RETAIN  
30 ANY PENALTY COLLECTED FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION.

1        SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to  
2 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or  
3 application to any installation of a residential solar photovoltaic system before the effective  
4 date of this Act.

5        SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 July October 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and 3 months and, at  
7 the end of December 31, 2021, this Act, with no further action required by the General  
8 Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.