

SENATE BILL 138

M3

8lr0641
CF HB 3

By: **Senators Conway, Pinsky, and Miller**

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – U.S. Climate Alliance – Membership**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include the State as a member of the U.S.
4 Climate Alliance on or before a certain date; prohibiting the Governor from
5 withdrawing the State from the U.S. Climate Alliance unless the General Assembly
6 enacts a law approving the withdrawal; requiring the Governor to report to certain
7 committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year, beginning
8 on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the U.S. Climate Alliance.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Environment

11 Section 2–1401 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 14. U.S. Climate Alliance”

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

14 Preamble

15 WHEREAS, 195 countries signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which
16 aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, including by holding
17 the increase in the global average temperature to be below 2 degrees Celsius above
18 pre-industrial levels; and

19 WHEREAS, The United States signed the Paris Agreement; and

20 WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump’s Administration has announced its intent
21 to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement; and

22 WHEREAS, The Healthy Air Act included Maryland in the Regional Greenhouse
23 Gas Initiative; and

24 WHEREAS, The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act requires Maryland to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 reduce emissions by 40% by 2030; and

2 WHEREAS, Only international cooperation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can
3 mitigate climate impacts; and

4 WHEREAS, 14 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have joined the U.S.
5 Climate Alliance, committing to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent
6 with the goals of the Paris Agreement; now, therefore,

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

9 **Article – Environment**

10 **SUBTITLE 14. U.S. CLIMATE ALLIANCE.**

11 **2–1401.**

12 **(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2018, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE**
13 **THE STATE AS A MEMBER OF THE U.S. CLIMATE ALLIANCE.**

14 **(2) THE GOVERNOR MAY WITHDRAW THE STATE FROM THE U.S.**
15 **CLIMATE ALLIANCE ONLY IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACTS A LAW TO APPROVE**
16 **THE WITHDRAWAL.**

17 **(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2018, AND ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1**
18 **EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL REPORT TO THE SENATE**
19 **EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND THE**
20 **HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
21 **§ 2–1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE STATE’S PARTICIPATION**
22 **IN THE U.S. CLIMATE ALLIANCE, INCLUDING:**

23 **(1) ANY COLLABORATIONS OR PARTNERSHIPS AMONG THE ALLIANCE**
24 **MEMBERS OR EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS; AND**

25 **(2) ANY POLICIES OR PROGRAMS THAT THE ALLIANCE HAS**
26 **ENDORSED, UNDERTAKEN, OR CONSIDERED.**

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
28 1, 2018.