

Chapter 605

(House Bill 277)

AN ACT concerning

**Regional Initiative to Limit or Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions in
Transportation Sector – Authorization
(Regional Transportation and Climate Protection Act of 2019)**

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Governor to include the State as a full participant in a certain initiative, agreement, or compact that limits or reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector; ~~authorizing the Governor to impose a certain statewide greenhouse gas emission fee on the sale or distribution of motor fuel under certain circumstances;~~ requiring the Department of the Environment and the Department of Transportation to report to ~~certain committees of the General Assembly on or before a certain date,~~ certain dates ~~and with a certain frequency thereafter,~~ on the status of a certain initiative, agreement, or compact that limits or reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector; requiring the General Assembly to enact a law approving the withdrawal of the State from a certain initiative, agreement, or compact that limits or reduces greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector; and generally relating to limiting or reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector.

BY adding to
Article – Environment
Section 2–1204.2
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

Article – Environment

2–1204.2.

(A) THE GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE THE STATE AS A FULL PARTICIPANT IN ANY REGIONAL GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVE, AGREEMENT, OR COMPACT THAT LIMITS OR REDUCES GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR.

~~**(B) IF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA OR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IMPOSES A STATEWIDE OR CITYWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION FEE ON THE SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF MOTOR FUEL, THE GOVERNOR MAY IMPOSE A SIMILAR FEE OF**~~

~~UP TO THE SAME AMOUNT AS THE FEE IMPOSED BY THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA OR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.~~

~~(c)~~ ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2019, AND ~~EVERY 6 MONTHS FOR EACH YEAR THEREAFTER FOR THE NEXT 3 YEARS THEREAFTER~~, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SHALL REPORT TO ~~THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, AND THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE~~ OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE STATUS OF A REGIONAL GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVE, AGREEMENT, OR COMPACT THAT LIMITS OR REDUCES GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR, INCLUDING:

(1) WHETHER A REGIONAL GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVE, AGREEMENT, OR COMPACT THAT LIMITS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR EXISTS;

(2) WHETHER THE GOVERNOR HAS INCLUDED THE STATE AS A FULL PARTICIPANT IN SUCH AN INITIATIVE, AGREEMENT, OR COMPACT; AND

(3) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT OR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONSIDERS RELEVANT.

~~(D)~~ (C) THE STATE MAY WITHDRAW FROM A REGIONAL GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVE, AGREEMENT, OR COMPACT ENTERED INTO UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENACTS A LAW TO APPROVE THE WITHDRAWAL.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2019.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 25, 2019.