

HOUSE BILL 1207

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1lr3018
CF SB 674

By: **Delegate Bridges**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable**
3 **Communities – Reform**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the membership of the Commission on Environmental Justice
5 and Sustainable Communities; requiring the membership of the Commission to
6 reflect the diversity of the State to the extent practicable; specifying the term of
7 certain members; requiring the Department of the Environment to provide a new
8 member with a certain orientation; altering the manner in which a chair is chosen
9 for the Commission; requiring the Commission to meet a minimum number of times
10 per calendar year; requiring the Commission to hold a certain number of meetings
11 in certain locations of the State; requiring the Commission's meetings to be
12 reasonably accessible to all attendees, including certain persons; requiring the
13 Department to post notice of the time and location of its meetings on its website at
14 least a certain number of days before the meeting; prohibiting a member of the
15 Commission from representing more than one entity or group; requiring the
16 Commission to use data sets and mapping tools to review and analyze the current
17 impact of State and local laws, permits, actions, and policies on certain issues;
18 requiring the Commission to assess compliance with a certain federal law; requiring
19 the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and the Commission
20 to coordinate with the Commission on Climate Change on certain recommendations;
21 repealing the requirement that the Commission develop certain criteria; requiring
22 the Commission, after seeking to seek input from and hosting host meetings in
23 certain communities, to create a list of potential supplemental environmental
24 projects to address environmental justice issues; requiring the Commission to
25 recommend certain options to the General Assembly; defining certain terms; and

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 generally relating to the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable
2 Communities.

3 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
4 Article – Environment
5 Section 1–701
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

10 **Article – Environment**

11 1–701.

12 (a) (1) In this section[, “environmental”] **THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**
13 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

14 (2) **“BUSINESS ORGANIZATION” MEANS A CORPORATION, BUSINESS**
15 **TRUST, PARTNERSHIP, OR ANY OTHER FOR–PROFIT ENTITY.**

16 (3) **“COMMISSION” MEANS THE COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL**
17 **JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES.**

18 ~~(3)~~ (4) **“ENVIRONMENTAL justice” means equal protection from**
19 **environmental and public health hazards for all people regardless of race, income, culture,**
20 **and social status.**

21 (5) **“ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION” MEANS A NONPROFIT ENTITY**
22 **ENGAGED IN ADVOCACY OR ACTION RELATED TO CONSERVATION, STEWARDSHIP OF**
23 **NATURAL RESOURCES, OR POLLUTION REDUCTION.**

24 ~~(4) “SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT” MEANS AN~~
25 ~~ENVIRONMENTALLY BENEFICIAL PROJECT OR ACTIVITY THAT IS NOT REQUIRED BY~~
26 ~~LAW, BUT THAT AN ALLEGED VIOLATOR AGREES TO UNDERTAKE AS PART OF A~~
27 ~~SETTLEMENT OR ENFORCEMENT ACTION.~~

28 (b) There is a Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable
29 Communities.

30 (c) (1) The Commission consists of the following [20] members:

31 (i) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
32 President of the Senate;

- 1 (ii) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
2 of the House;
- 3 (iii) The Secretary, or the Secretary's designee;
- 4 (iv) The Secretary of Health, or the Secretary's designee;
- 5 (v) The Secretary of Planning, or the Secretary's designee;
- 6 (vi) The Secretary of Commerce, or the Secretary's designee;
- 7 (vii) The Secretary of Housing and Community Development, or the
8 Secretary's designee;
- 9 (viii) The Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;
- 10 [and]
- 11 (ix) [Twelve] **THE FOLLOWING** members appointed by the Governor
12 [who represent the following interests]:

13 1. [Affected communities concerned with] ~~ONE~~
14 ~~REPRESENTATIVE~~ **NOT FEWER THAN FOUR REPRESENTATIVES FROM A COMMUNITY**
15 **DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY environmental justice ISSUES AND PUBLIC**
16 **HEALTH HAZARDS THAT REPRESENT THE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE;**

17 2. [Business organizations] ~~ONE REPRESENTATIVE~~ **TWO**
18 **REPRESENTATIVES OF A BUSINESS ORGANIZATION ORGANIZATIONS;**

19 3. [Environmental organizations] ~~ONE REPRESENTATIVE~~
20 **TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION ORGANIZATIONS;**

21 4. [Health experts] ~~ONE REPRESENTATIVE~~ **TWO**
22 **REPRESENTATIVES WHO IS A ARE HEALTH EXPERT EXPERTS** on environmental justice
23 **ISSUES; AND**

24 5. [~~Local~~] ~~ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL government;~~
25 ~~and~~

26 ~~6.~~ **5.** [The general public with interest or expertise in
27 environmental justice] **ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ACADEMIC INSTITUTION WITH**
28 **AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE OR SIMILAR PROGRAM;**

29 ~~(x) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED JOINTLY BY THE~~
30 ~~PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;~~

1 ~~1. THREE REPRESENTATIVES FROM COMMUNITIES~~
 2 ~~IMPACTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES;~~

3 ~~2. ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF A BUSINESS~~
 4 ~~ORGANIZATION;~~

5 ~~3. ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL~~
 6 ~~ORGANIZATION; AND~~

7 ~~4. ONE REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS A HEALTH EXPERT ON~~
 8 ~~ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES;~~

9 ~~(XI) (X) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,~~
 10 ~~DESIGNATED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES; AND~~

11 ~~(XII) (XI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT,~~
 12 ~~DESIGNATED BY THE MARYLAND MUNICIPAL LEAGUE; AND~~

13 (XII) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF A LABOR UNION, DESIGNATED
 14 BY THE MARYLAND STATE AND D.C. AFL-CIO.

15 (2) [Of the twelve members appointed by the Governor under paragraph
 16 (1)(ix) of this subsection, at least two members shall represent affected communities
 17 concerned with environmental justice.] TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE
 18 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION SHALL REFLECT THE RACIAL, GENDER, ETHNIC,
 19 AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY OF THE STATE, ACCORDING TO THE MOST RECENT
 20 AVAILABLE CENSUS DATA.

21 (d) (1) The term of a member appointed by the Governor ~~OR THE PRESIDENT~~
 22 ~~OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE~~ is 3 years.

23 (2) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is
 24 appointed and qualifies.

25 (3) A member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the
 26 rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies.

27 (4) A member may not be appointed to more than two consecutive terms.

28 **(5) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE A NEW COMMISSION MEMBER**
 29 **WITH AN ORIENTATION THAT REVIEWS:**

30 **(I) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES IN THE STATE; AND**

31 **(II) PREVIOUS WORK OF THE COMMISSION.**

1 (e) The [Governor] COMMISSION shall [designate the chairman of the
2 Commission] **ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.**

3 (f) The Department shall provide staff for the Commission.

4 (g) (1) **(I)** The Commission shall meet at [the times and places that the
5 chairman determines] **LEAST SIX TIMES PER CALENDAR YEAR.**

6 **(II) OF THE MEETINGS REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I)**
7 **OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH ROTATING MEETING**
8 **LOCATIONS IN DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS OF THE STATE, INCLUDING:**

9 1. **AT LEAST ONE ~~SHALL BE HELD~~ IN A RURAL LOCATION**
10 **OF THE STATE; AND**

11 2. **AT LEAST ONE ~~SHALL BE HELD~~ IN AN URBAN**
12 **LOCATION OF THE STATE.**

13 **(III) THE MEETINGS REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF**
14 **THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE REASONABLY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL ATTENDEES,**
15 **INCLUDING PERSONS WITH:**

16 1. **LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY; AND**

17 2. **DISABILITIES.**

18 **(IV) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL POST NOTICE OF THE TIME AND**
19 **LOCATION OF A MEETING REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS**
20 **PARAGRAPH ON ITS WEBSITE AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING.**

21 (2) A majority of members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for
22 the transaction of business.

23 (3) A member of the Commission:

24 (i) May not receive compensation as a member of the Commission;
25 but

26 (ii) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
27 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

28 **(4) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY NOT REPRESENT MORE**
29 **THAN ONE ENTITY OR GROUP.**

1 (h) The Commission shall:

2 (1) Advise State government agencies on environmental justice and related
3 community issues;

4 (2) [Review] **USE DATA SETS AND MAPPING TOOLS TO REVIEW** and
5 analyze the impact of current State **AND LOCAL** laws, **PERMITS, ACTIONS,** and policies on
6 the issue of environmental justice and sustainable communities, **INCLUDING**
7 **CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, EFFECTS, AND EXPOSURE;**

8 (3) Assess the adequacy of State and local government laws to address the
9 issue of environmental justice and sustainable communities, **INCLUDING ASSESSING**
10 **COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964;**

11 (4) Coordinate with the Children's Environmental Health and Protection
12 Advisory Council, **THE MARYLAND OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH AND HEALTH**
13 **DISPARITIES, AND THE COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE** on recommendations
14 related to environmental justice and sustainable communities;

15 (5) [Develop criteria to assess whether communities in the State may be
16 experiencing environmental justice issues] ~~**AFTER SEEKING**~~ **SEEK** INPUT FROM AND
17 ~~**HOSTING**~~ **HOST MEETINGS IN COMMUNITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY**
18 ~~**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES AND PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARDS, CREATE A LIST**~~
19 ~~**OF POTENTIAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS TO ADDRESS**~~
20 ~~**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES;**~~ and

21 (6) Recommend options to the Governor **AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
22 for addressing issues, concerns, or problems related to environmental justice that surface
23 after reviewing State laws and policies, including prioritizing areas of the State that need
24 immediate attention.

25 (i) On or before October 1 of each year, the Commission shall report its findings
26 and recommendations to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1257 of the State Government
27 Article, the General Assembly.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2021.