

# HOUSE BILL 1263

M3  
HB 503/21 – ENT

2lr1552

---

By: **Delegates P. Young, Charkoudian, Ebersole, Gilchrist, Luedtke, Ruth, Solomon, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Office on Climate Change – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Office on Climate Change in the Office of the Governor  
4 to coordinate with the Commission on Climate Change to ensure certain  
5 recommendations are implemented, ensure that each State agency addresses ways  
6 the agency can mitigate the causes of climate change and certain impacts of climate  
7 change, initiate and oversee certain climate change research and investigations, and  
8 work with local governments on the development and implementation of local  
9 climate change plans; and generally relating to the Office on Climate Change.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Environment

12 Section 2–13A–01 through 2–13A–04 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 13A.  
13 Office on Climate Change”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Environment**

19 **SUBTITLE 13A. OFFICE ON CLIMATE CHANGE.**

20 **2–13A–01.**

21 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “OFFICE” MEANS THE OFFICE ON CLIMATE CHANGE.**

22 **2–13A–02.**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (A) THERE IS AN OFFICE ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
2 GOVERNOR.

3 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE OFFICE IS TO:

4 (1) FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMISSION ON  
5 CLIMATE CHANGE'S RECOMMENDATIONS;

6 (2) ENSURE THAT EACH STATE AGENCY CONSIDERS AND ADDRESSES  
7 CLIMATE CHANGE AS IT RELATES TO THE AGENCY AND ITS OPERATIONS;

8 (3) INITIATE AND OVERSEE, AS NECESSARY, CLIMATE CHANGE  
9 RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS THAT ADDRESS FACTORS THE OFFICE  
10 DETERMINES ARE SUBSTANTIAL IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE BUT ARE NOT  
11 INCLUDED IN THE COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE'S RECOMMENDATIONS;

12 (4) ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL  
13 CLIMATE CHANGE PLANS; AND

14 (5) REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE STATE'S EFFORTS TO MITIGATE THE CAUSES OF,  
16 PREPARE FOR, AND ADAPT TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

17 2-13A-03.

18 THE OFFICE SHALL:

19 (1) COORDINATE WITH THE COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO  
20 ENSURE THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED;

21 (2) ENSURE THAT EACH STATE AGENCY ADDRESSES:

22 (I) WAYS THE AGENCY CAN MITIGATE THE CAUSES OF CLIMATE  
23 CHANGE; AND

24 (II) THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE AGENCY'S  
25 PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES;

26 (3) INITIATE AND OVERSEE ANY ADDITIONAL RESEARCH OR  
27 INVESTIGATIONS THE OFFICE DETERMINES ARE NECESSARY TO ADDRESS FACTORS  
28 THAT THE OFFICE DETERMINES ARE SUBSTANTIAL IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE  
29 BUT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE'S

1 RECOMMENDATIONS; AND

2 (4) WORK WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO:

3 (I) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE  
4 PLANS; AND

5 (II) IDENTIFY RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION  
6 OF LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE PLANS.

7 2-13A-04.

8 EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND,  
9 IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE  
10 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, AND THE  
11 HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 2022.