HOUSE BILL 1263

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

AN ACT concerning

Environment – Office on Climate Change – Establishment

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

BY adding to
Article – Environment
Section 2–13A–01 through 2–13A–04 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 13A. Office on Climate Change”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Environment

SUBTITLE 13A. OFFICE ON CLIMATE CHANGE.

2–13A–01.

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

2–13A–02.
(A) **There is an Office on Climate Change in the Office of the Governor.**

(B) **The purpose of the Office is to:**

1. **Facilitate the implementation of the Commission on Climate Change’s recommendations;**
2. **Ensure that each State agency considers and addresses climate change as it relates to the agency and its operations;**
3. **Initiate and oversee, as necessary, climate change research and investigations that address factors the Office determines are substantial in fighting climate change but are not included in the Commission on Climate Change’s recommendations;**
4. **Assist local governments in the development of local climate change plans; and**
5. **Report annually to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the State’s efforts to mitigate the causes of, prepare for, and adapt to the consequences of climate change.**

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**The Office shall:**

1. **Coordinate with the Commission on Climate Change to ensure the Commission’s recommendations are implemented;**
2. **Ensure that each State agency addresses:**
   - Ways the agency can mitigate the causes of climate change; and
   - The impacts of climate change in the agency’s programs, policies, and financial expenditures;
3. **Initiate and oversee any additional research or investigations the Office determines are necessary to address factors that the Office determines are substantial in fighting climate change but are not included in the Commission on Climate Change’s**
RECOMMENDATIONS; AND

(4) WORK WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO:

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

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

2–13A–04.


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