

# SENATE BILL 999

C5, M5, L6

2lr3270  
CF HB 936

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By: **Senator Hershey**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2022

Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Blue Ribbon Community Solar Land Use Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Blue Ribbon Community Solar Land Use Commission  
4 to study and make recommendations regarding the land use needs to meet the full  
5 generation capacity authorized under the Community Solar Energy Generating  
6 Systems Pilot Program; and generally relating to the Blue Ribbon Community Solar  
7 Land Use Commission.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
9 That:

- 10 (a) There is a Blue Ribbon Community Solar Land Use Commission.
- 11 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:
- 12 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
13 the Senate;
- 14 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the  
15 House;
- 16 (3) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;
- 17 (4) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;
- 18 (5) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, or the Chairman's  
19 designee; and
- 20 (6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
- 21 (i) one representative of the Maryland Farm Bureau;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (ii) one representative of the Coalition for Community Solar Access;
- 2 (iii) one representative of the Chesapeake Solar & Storage  
3 Association;
- 4 (iv) one representative of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network;
- 5 (v) one representative of Fair Farms Maryland;
- 6 (vi) one representative of the Sierra Club;
- 7 (vii) one representative of the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy  
8 Coalition;
- 9 (viii) one representative of the Maryland Municipal League; and
- 10 (ix) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties.

11 (c) The member of the Senate of Maryland and the member of the House of  
12 Delegates shall cochair the Commission.

13 (d) The Power Plant Research Program in the Department of Natural Resources  
14 shall staff the Commission.

15 (e) A member of the Commission:

16 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

17 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
18 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

19 (f) The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding the land  
20 use needs to meet the full generation capacity authorized under COMAR 20.62.02.02,  
21 including:

22 (1) the total area of land, including agricultural land, that is likely  
23 necessary to meet the full generation capacity in a manner that is cost-effective for  
24 ratepayers in the State;

25 (2) the total number of megawatts of solar electricity that is needed to meet  
26 the full generation capacity;

27 (3) the rate of rooftop solar panels compared to ground-mounted solar  
28 panels that is needed to meet the number of megawatts of solar electricity identified under  
29 item (2) of this subsection;

1           (4)    the number of acres that would be required to be allocated to each  
2 county, including Baltimore City, to meet the number of megawatts of solar electricity  
3 identified under item (2) of this subsection, based on the following factors:

4                   (i)    the county's population and electricity use;

5                   (ii)   the county's total area; and

6                   (iii)  the percentage of the county's land that is agricultural land; and

7           (5)    any other matter that the Commission considers necessary to help the  
8 State meet the full generation capacity authorized under COMAR 20.62.02.02 in a  
9 cost-effective manner.

10          (g)    On or before December 1, 2022, the Commission shall report its findings and  
11 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State  
12 Government Article, the General Assembly.

13          SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
14 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2023, this  
15 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no  
16 further force and effect.