

HOUSE BILL 169

C5, M5

(3lr0438)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Economic Matters/Education, Energy, and the Environment* —

Introduced by **Delegate Charkoudian**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utilities – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs – Energy**
3 **Performance Targets and Low-Income Housing**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to include certain information
5 on low-income energy efficiency and conservation programs in a certain annual
6 report to the General Assembly; requiring the Department of Housing and
7 Community Development to procure or provide for electricity customers energy
8 efficiency and conservation programs and services designed to achieve certain target
9 annual incremental gross energy savings in certain years; requiring certain
10 contractors used for the programs under this Act to meet certain job requirements;
11 requiring the Department *of Housing and Community Development* to update the
12 weather-normalized gross retail sales against which savings are measured for
13 certain plans; requiring the target annual incremental gross energy savings to be
14 achieved based on an average of certain Department *of Housing and Community*
15 *Development* plans; requiring the Department *of Housing and Community*

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.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 *Development*, on or before certain dates and with a certain frequency, to submit a
 2 plan to the Commission for achieving the electricity savings and demand reduction
 3 target; requiring the Department of *Housing and Community Development* to
 4 ~~develop a plan to coordinate and leverage funding sources to support~~ *coordinate with*
 5 *the Department of Budget and Management to identify additional funding sources to*
 6 *support a possible expansion of programs that support a whole-home approach by*
 7 *addressing* certain energy efficiency and other home upgrades ~~and~~; *requiring the*
 8 *Department of Housing and Community Development to collaborate with members of*
 9 *the Green and Healthy Task Force to develop* a plan to provide energy efficiency
 10 retrofits to all low-income households by a certain date; establishing the Green and
 11 Healthy Task Force to analyze and advance the coordination of resources to address
 12 the housing needs of low-income communities; requiring a certain certification
 13 agency to initiate a certain study regarding energy efficiency and conservation
 14 services and certain remedial measures; and generally relating to energy
 15 performance targets and low-income housing.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 17 Article – Public Utilities
 18 Section 7–211(k)
 19 Annotated Code of Maryland
 20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

21 BY adding to
 22 Article – Public Utilities
 23 Section 7–211.1 and 7–211.2
 24 Annotated Code of Maryland
 25 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

28 Article – Public Utilities

29 7–211.

30 (k) On or before May 1 of each year, the Commission, in consultation with the
 31 Maryland Energy Administration, shall report, subject to § 2–1257 of the State Government
 32 Article, to the General Assembly on:

33 (1) the status of programs and services to encourage and promote the
 34 efficient use and conservation of energy, including an evaluation of the impact of the
 35 programs and services that are directed to low-income communities, low-
 36 moderate-income communities to the extent possible, and other particular classes of
 37 ratepayers;

38 (2) a recommendation for the appropriate funding level to adequately fund
 39 these programs and services; [and]

1 **(3) FOR THE LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS UNDER § 7-211.1 OF THIS**
2 **SUBTITLE, INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY**
3 **DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES TO THE COMMISSION UNDER § 7-211.1(H) OF THIS**
4 **SUBTITLE; AND**

5 ~~[(3)]~~ **(4)** in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, the per capita
6 electricity consumption and the peak demand for the previous calendar year.

7 **7-211.1.**

8 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
9 **INDICATED.**

10 **(2) “DEPARTMENT” MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND**
11 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

12 **(3) “LOW-INCOME PROGRAM” MEANS A PROGRAM THAT DELIVERS**
13 **ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION MEASURES TO REDUCE UTILITY**
14 **EXPENSES FOR BUILDING OWNERS, MANAGERS, AND TENANTS OF HOUSING WITH**
15 **RESIDENTS WHO QUALIFY FOR THE DEPARTMENT’S LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE**
16 **PROGRAMS, INCLUDING:**

17 **(I) THE EMPOWER MARYLAND PROGRAM;**

18 **(II) THE MULTIFAMILY ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND HOUSING**
19 **AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM; AND**

20 **(III) THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

21 **(4) “LOW-INCOME RESIDENTIAL” MEANS A COMMUNITY, BUILDING,**
22 **OR HOUSEHOLD WITH RESIDENTS WHO QUALIFY FOR THE DEPARTMENT’S**
23 **LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.**

24 **(5) “TASK FORCE” MEANS THE GREEN AND HEALTHY TASK FORCE**
25 **ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7-211.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

26 **(B) (1) FOR THE 2024-2026 PROGRAM CYCLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**
27 **PROCURE OR PROVIDE FOR ELECTRICITY CUSTOMERS ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND**
28 **CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**

29 **(2) (I) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3)(III) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**
30 **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION**

1 SHALL BE DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE TARGET ANNUAL INCREMENTAL GROSS ENERGY
2 SAVINGS OF:

- 3 1. 0.53% IN 2024;
- 4 2. 0.72% IN 2025; AND
- 5 3. 1% IN 2026.

6 (II) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ~~USE THE SAVINGS ACHIEVED~~
7 ~~THROUGH ALL FUNDING SOURCES TOWARD CALCULATING THE TARGET ANNUAL~~
8 ~~INCREMENTAL GROSS ENERGY SAVINGS, IF THE FUNDING SOURCES MEET THE~~
9 ~~STANDARDS OF PROGRAMS FUNDED THROUGH:~~

10 ~~1. THE EMPOWER SURCHARGE; OR~~

11 ~~2. THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, WHEN~~
12 CALCULATING THE ANNUAL INCREMENTAL GROSS ENERGY SAVINGS UNDER
13 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, INCLUDE SAVINGS ACHIEVED THROUGH
14 ALL FUNDING SOURCES TO THE EXTENT CONSISTENT WITH FEDERAL LAW OR
15 REGULATIONS GOVERNING THOSE FUNDING SOURCES.

16 (3) (I) THE ENERGY SAVINGS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF
17 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE CALCULATED AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE 2016
18 WEATHER-NORMALIZED GROSS LOW-INCOME RESIDENTIAL RETAIL SALES FOR ALL
19 ELECTRIC COMPANIES.

20 (II) THE 2016 WEATHER-NORMALIZED GROSS LOW-INCOME
21 RESIDENTIAL RETAIL SALES FOR ALL ELECTRIC COMPANIES SHALL BE
22 DETERMINED BY MULTIPLYING THE AVERAGE 2016 RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLD
23 ELECTRICITY USAGE FOR ALL ELECTRIC COMPANIES BY THE NUMBER OF
24 HOUSEHOLDS:

25 1. WITH INCOMES BELOW 250% OF THE FEDERAL
26 POVERTY LEVEL AS DETERMINED BY THE FEDERAL CENSUS; OR

27 2. THAT MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA APPROVED BY
28 THE COMMISSION FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.

29 (III) THE TARGET ANNUAL INCREMENTAL GROSS ENERGY
30 SAVINGS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES TO
31 ALL ENERGY TYPES SUBJECT TO THE TARGETED ANNUAL INCREMENTAL GROSS
32 ENERGY SAVINGS REQUIRED UNDER § 7-211(G) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

1 **(4) FOR WEATHERIZATION OF LEASED OR RENTED RESIDENCES, THE**
 2 **DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THAT:**

3 **(I) THE BENEFITS OF WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE,**
 4 **INCLUDING UTILITY BILL REDUCTION AND PRESERVATION OF AFFORDABLE**
 5 **HOUSING STOCK, ACCRUE PRIMARILY TO LOW-INCOME TENANTS OCCUPYING A**
 6 **LEASED OR RENTED RESIDENCE; AND**

7 **(II) THE RENT ON THE RESIDENCE IS NOT INCREASED AND THE**
 8 **TENANT IS NOT EVICTED AS A RESULT OF WEATHERIZATION PROVIDED UNDER THIS**
 9 **SECTION.**

10 **(5) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE**
 11 **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION**
 12 **MAY NOT USE THERMAL INSULATING MATERIALS FOR BUILDING ELEMENTS,**
 13 **INCLUDING WALLS, FLOORS, CEILINGS, ATTICS, AND ROOF INSULATION, THAT**
 14 **CONTAIN FORMALDEHYDE.**

15 **(II) THERMAL INSULATING MATERIALS FOR BUILDING**
 16 **ELEMENTS MAY NOT CONTAIN FORMALDEHYDE IF THE FORMALDEHYDE:**

17 1. **WAS INTENTIONALLY ADDED; OR**

18 2. **IS PRESENT IN THE PRODUCT AT GREATER THAN 0.1%**
 19 **BY WEIGHT.**

20 **(6) ~~(I) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE TO~~**
 21 **~~CONTRACTORS THAT ARE MINORITY OWNED, WOMEN OWNED, OR~~**
 22 **~~VETERAN OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE STATE FOR PROCUREMENT PROCESSES~~**
 23 **~~RELATED TO EMPOWER PROGRAMS.~~**

24 **~~(II)~~ THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVED CONTRACTORS USED FOR**
 25 **THE PROGRAMS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL MEET THE FOLLOWING JOB**
 26 **REQUIREMENTS:**

27 ~~1.~~ **(I) PAY AT LEAST 150% OF THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE;**

28 ~~2.~~ **(II) PROVIDE CAREER ADVANCEMENT TRAINING;**

29 ~~3.~~ **(III) AFFORD EMPLOYEES THE RIGHT TO BARGAIN**
 30 **COLLECTIVELY FOR WAGES AND BENEFITS;**

31 ~~4.~~ **(IV) PROVIDE PAID LEAVE;**

1 ~~5.~~ (V) BE CONSIDERED COVERED EMPLOYMENT FOR
2 PURPOSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE
3 8 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE;

4 ~~6.~~ (VI) ENTITLED THE EMPLOYEE TO WORKERS'
5 COMPENSATION BENEFITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 9 OF THE LABOR AND
6 EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE;

7 ~~7.~~ (VII) BE COMPLIANT WITH FEDERAL AND STATE
8 WAGE AND HOUR LAWS FOR THE PREVIOUS 3 YEARS;

9 ~~8.~~ (VIII) OFFER EMPLOYER-PROVIDED HEALTH
10 INSURANCE BENEFITS WITH MONTHLY PREMIUMS THAT DO NOT EXCEED 8.5% OF
11 THE EMPLOYEE'S NET MONTHLY EARNINGS; AND

12 ~~9.~~ (IX) OFFER RETIREMENT BENEFITS.

13 (C) THE WEATHER-NORMALIZED GROSS RETAIL SALES AGAINST WHICH
14 THE SAVINGS ARE MEASURED SHALL:

15 (1) REFLECT SALES ASSOCIATED WITH THE LOW-INCOME
16 RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER CLASS SERVED BY PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE
17 DEPARTMENT; AND

18 (2) BE UPDATED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR EACH PLAN SUBMITTED
19 UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.

20 (D) THE TARGET ANNUAL INCREMENTAL GROSS ENERGY SAVINGS SHALL BE
21 ACHIEVED BASED ON THE 3-YEAR AVERAGE OF DEPARTMENT PLANS SUBMITTED IN
22 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.

23 (E) (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
24 SUBMIT A PLAN TO THE COMMISSION THAT DETAILS PROPOSALS FOR ACHIEVING
25 THE ELECTRICITY SAVINGS AND DEMAND REDUCTION TARGET UNDER SUBSECTION
26 (B) OF THIS SECTION FOR 2024.

27 (2) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2024, AND EVERY 3 YEARS
28 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SUBMIT A PLAN TO THE COMMISSION THAT
29 DETAILS PROPOSALS FOR ACHIEVING THE ELECTRICITY SAVINGS AND DEMAND
30 REDUCTION TARGET UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION FOR THE 3
31 SUBSEQUENT CALENDAR YEARS.

32 (3) THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:

1 **(I) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ENERGY EFFICIENCY**
2 **AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES;**

3 **(II) A DESCRIPTION OF THE STEPS PROPOSED TO ENSURE**
4 **INSULATION MATERIALS MEET THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF**
5 **THIS SECTION;**

6 **(III) ANTICIPATED COSTS;**

7 **(IV) PROJECTED ELECTRICITY SAVINGS;**

8 **(V) A PROPOSED AVERAGE LIFETIME MEASURE THRESHOLD**
9 **THAT ENCOURAGES THE DELIVERY OF INSULATION AND WEATHERIZATION**
10 **MEASURES, DEVELOPED THROUGH A STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROCESS; AND**

11 **(VI) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE COMMISSION**
12 **REQUESTS.**

13 **(4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE COMMISSION WITH AN**
14 **UPDATE EVERY 6 MONTHS ON PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND PROGRESS TOWARD**
15 **ACHIEVING THE ELECTRICITY SAVINGS AND DEMAND REDUCTION TARGET UNDER**
16 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

17 **(5) THE COMMISSION SHALL REVIEW A PLAN TO DETERMINE**
18 **WHETHER THE PLAN IS ADEQUATE FOR ACHIEVING THE TARGET.**

19 **(F) THE COMMISSION SHALL WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH**
20 **ANY PROCEDURES NECESSARY TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN FOR**
21 **ACHIEVING THE ELECTRICITY SAVINGS AND DEMAND REDUCTION TARGET UNDER**
22 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING SECURING COOPERATION FROM**
23 **ELECTRIC COMPANIES RELATED TO:**

24 **(1) FUNDING;**

25 **(2) COMMUNICATIONS;**

26 **(3) REFERRALS;**

27 **(4) DATA SHARING; AND**

28 **(5) ANY OTHER COOPERATION THAT THE COMMISSION DETERMINES**
29 **IS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE ELECTRICITY SAVINGS UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF**
30 **THIS SECTION.**

1 **(G) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ~~DEVELOP A PLAN TO COORDINATE~~**
 2 **~~FUNDING SOURCES AND LEVERAGE THE GREATEST FUNDING POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT~~**
 3 **COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO IDENTIFY**
 4 **ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES TO SUPPORT A POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF PROGRAMS**
 5 **THAT SUPPORT A WHOLE-HOME APPROACH BY ADDRESSING:**

6 **(I) HEALTH AND SAFETY UPGRADES;**

7 **(II) WEATHERIZATION;**

8 **(III) ENERGY EFFICIENCY; AND**

9 **(IV) OTHER GENERAL MAINTENANCE FOR LOW-INCOME**
 10 **HOUSING.**

11 **(2) THE ~~PLAN SHALL COORDINATE FUNDING AMONG~~ COORDINATION**
 12 **SHALL INCLUDE FUNDING AVAILABLE THROUGH:**

13 **(I) THE STRATEGIC ENERGY INVESTMENT FUND;**

14 **(II) FEDERAL WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS;**

15 **(III) RATEPAYER CONTRIBUTIONS TO:**

16 **1. THE EMPOWER MARYLAND LIMITED INCOME**
 17 **ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM; AND**

18 **2. THE MULTIFAMILY ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND**
 19 **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM;**

20 **(IV) THE MARYLAND AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND;**

21 **(V) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN**
 22 **DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING:**

23 **1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS;**

24 **2. THE HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP GRANTS**
 25 **PROGRAM; AND**

26 **3. LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES**
 27 **GRANTS;**

1 (VI) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS,
2 INCLUDING THE HOME REPAIR PROGRAM;

3 (VII) THE HEALTHY HOMES FOR HEALTHY KIDS PROGRAM;

4 (VIII) THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK
5 GRANT PROGRAM;

6 (IX) STATE APPROPRIATIONS; AND

7 (X) ANY OTHER SOURCE OF FUNDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT
8 OR THE TASK FORCE IDENTIFIES.

9 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE MEMBERS OF
10 THE TASK FORCE AND IDENTIFY OTHER INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS TO DEVELOP
11 THE PLAN.

12 (4) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
13 SUBMIT THE PLAN TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE
14 STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

15 (H) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION EACH
16 YEAR ON:

17 (I) FOR THE PROGRAMS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO ENERGY
18 EFFICIENCY AND WEATHERIZATION, DISAGGREGATED BY FUEL SOURCE AND
19 FUNDING SOURCE OR DEVELOPMENT FINANCE EFFORTS:

20 1. THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS SERVED; AND

21 2. THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY SAVINGS; AND

22 (II) THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT
23 RECEIVES, AND IS PROJECTED TO RECEIVE, FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND
24 WEATHERIZATION FROM THE FUNDING SOURCES UNDER THIS SECTION.

25 (2) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SATISFY THE REPORTING REQUIREMENT
26 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION BY INCLUDING THE REQUIRED INFORMATION IN THE
27 6-MONTH STATUS REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION.

28 (I) THE DEPARTMENT, THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION, AND
29 OTHER STATE AGENCIES SHALL APPLY FOR ALL FEDERAL FUNDING THAT MAY
30 BECOME AVAILABLE TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

1 **(J) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE MEMBERS OF**
2 **THE TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PLAN, INCLUDING A BUDGET, A TIMELINE, AND**
3 **POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES, TO PROVIDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFITS TO**
4 **ALL LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS BY 2031.**

5 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE TASK FORCE,**
6 **SHALL SUBMIT THE PLAN TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
7 **2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2023.**

8 **7-211.2.**

9 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “LOW-EMISSIONS HOUSING” MEANS HOUSING THAT IS**
10 **ENGINEERED TO OR USES MEASURES THAT REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.**

11 **(B) THERE IS A GREEN AND HEALTHY TASK FORCE.**

12 ~~**(B)**~~ **(C) THE TASK FORCE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

13 **(1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY**
14 **THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

15 **(2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY**
16 **THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

17 **(3) THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,**
18 **OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;**

19 **(4) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY’S**
20 **DESIGNEE;**

21 **(5) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION,**
22 **OR THE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE;**

23 **(6) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OFFICE OF PEOPLE’S COUNSEL;**
24 **AND**

25 **(7) AS APPOINTED BY THE CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE:**

26 **(I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND AFFORDABLE**
27 **HOUSING TRUST;**

28 **(II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GREEN AND HEALTHY**
29 **HOMES INITIATIVE;**

1 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF MARYLAND ENERGY
2 EFFICIENCY ADVOCATES;

3 (IV) ONE MEMBER WHO IS AN EXPERT IN PUBLIC HEALTH;

4 (V) ONE MEMBER FROM A COMMUNITY CONCERNED WITH
5 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE;

6 (VI) ONE MEMBER WHO OWNS OR DEVELOPS AFFORDABLE
7 HOUSING;

8 (VII) ONE MEMBER WHO HAS RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM A
9 LOW-INCOME PROGRAM THAT DELIVERS ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES; AND

10 (VIII) OTHER MEMBERS AS DETERMINED BY THE CHAIR OF THE
11 TASK FORCE.

12 ~~(C)~~ (D) THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
13 OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE, SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE TASK FORCE.

14 ~~(D)~~ (E) THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
15 DEVELOPMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE TASK FORCE.

16 ~~(E)~~ (F) A MEMBER OF THE TASK FORCE:

17 (1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE TASK
18 FORCE; BUT

19 (2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
20 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

21 ~~(F)~~ (G) THE TASK FORCE SHALL:

22 (1) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2023, MEET QUARTERLY FOR A PERIOD OF 3
23 YEARS;

24 (2) ADVANCE THE ALIGNMENT, BRANDING, AND COORDINATION OF
25 RESOURCES TO MORE EFFECTIVELY DELIVER GREEN AND HEALTHY HOUSING FOR
26 LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS IN THE STATE;

27 (3) EXAMINE THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RESOURCES NEEDED TO
28 ADDRESS THE HOUSING NEEDS OF LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES;

1 (4) DEVELOP POLICY AND STATUTORY RECOMMENDATIONS TO
2 ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS ACHIEVING HEALTHY,
3 ENERGY-EFFICIENT, ~~AND AFFORDABLE,~~ AND LOW-EMISSIONS HOUSING; AND

4 (5) ENGAGE WITH INTERESTED PARTIES AND COLLABORATE WITH
5 OTHER ENTITIES THAT CAN HELP ADVANCE THE GOALS OF THE TASK FORCE,
6 INCLUDING EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF HEALTHY ~~AND,~~ ENERGY-EFFICIENT, AND
7 LOW-EMISSIONS HOUSING.

8 ~~(G)~~ (H) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, AND EACH JULY 1 THROUGH 2027,
9 THE TASK FORCE SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
10 SECRETARY OF HEALTH, THE SECRETARY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE
11 COMMISSION, 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:

14 (a) The certification agency designated by the Board of Public Works under §
15 14-303(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article and the Governor's Office of Small,
16 Minority, and Women Business Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Housing
17 and Community Development, the Office of the Attorney General, and the General
18 Assembly, shall initiate a study regarding the energy efficiency and conservation services
19 used by the Department of Housing and Community Development to evaluate whether the
20 enactment of remedial measures to assist minority and women-owned businesses in the
21 energy efficiency and conservation services industry and market would comply with the
22 U.S. Supreme Court decision in City of Richmond v. J. A. Croson Co., 488 U.S. 469, and any
23 subsequent federal or constitutional requirements.

24 (b) The certification agency and the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and
25 Women Business Affairs shall submit the findings of the study required under subsection
26 (a) of this section to the Legislative Policy Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the
27 State Government Article, on or before December 31, 2025, so that the General Assembly
28 may review the findings before the 2026 session.

29 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 July 1, 2023.