

# HOUSE BILL 820

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CF 4lr1394

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By: **Delegates Wu, Arentz, Buckel, Hartman, Hill, Hutchinson, T. Morgan, Simmons, and Stein**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Nuclear Energy Development Task Force**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Nuclear Energy Development Task Force to study and  
4 make recommendations on the deployment of nuclear power generation resources  
5 and other related technologies in the State and the establishment of a permanent  
6 nuclear energy commission in the State; and generally relating to the Nuclear  
7 Energy Development Task Force.

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

10 (a) There is a Nuclear Energy Development Task Force.

11 (b) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the Task Force consists of  
12 the following members:

13 (i) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the  
14 President of the Senate;

15 (ii) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the  
16 Speaker of the House;

17 (iii) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the  
18 Director's designee;

19 (iv) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, or the  
20 Chairman's designee;

21 (v) the Director of the State Department of Assessments and  
22 Taxation, or the Director's designee;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (vi) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties from  
2 a suburban county, selected by the Maryland Association of Counties;
- 3 (vii) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties from  
4 a rural county, selected by the Maryland Association of Counties;
- 5 (viii) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties from  
6 an urban county, selected by the Maryland Association of Counties;
- 7 (ix) two representatives of organized labor, selected by the Maryland  
8 State and District of Columbia AFL–CIO;
- 9 (x) one representative of the Office of People’s Counsel, selected by  
10 the People’s Counsel;
- 11 (xi) two representatives of the construction industry selected as  
12 follows:
- 13 1. one representative selected by the Maryland Minority  
14 Contractors Association; and
- 15 2. one representative selected by the Associated Builders and  
16 Contractors of Maryland;
- 17 (xii) one representative of the Maryland Municipal League, selected  
18 by the Maryland Municipal League;
- 19 (xiii) one representative from the Maryland Energy Innovation  
20 Institute, selected by the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute;
- 21 (xiv) one representative from each investor–owned electric company  
22 in the State, selected by the president of each investor–owned electric company;
- 23 (xv) the Chief Executive Officer of the Virginia, Maryland and  
24 Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, or the Chief Executive Officer’s designee;
- 25 (xvi) the President of the Maryland–District of Columbia Utilities  
26 Association, or the President’s designee;
- 27 (xvii) the Chief Nuclear Officer from Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power  
28 Plant, or the Chief Nuclear Officer’s designee;
- 29 (xviii) two representatives of environmental advocacy groups,  
30 appointed by the Governor; and
- 31 (xix) two engineers appointed by the Governor as follows:

1                                   1.     one engineer with system architecture design experience;  
2 and

3                                   2.     one engineer with system development experience.

4                   (2)    The Governor shall request that the following individuals and  
5 representatives be designated as members of the Task Force:

6                           (i)    the Executive Director of the United States Nuclear Industry  
7 Council, or the Executive Director's designee;

8                           (ii)   one representative from a U.S. Department of Energy national  
9 laboratory with expertise in nuclear energy policy, selected by the U.S. Department of  
10 Energy;

11                           (iii)  one representative of the Nuclear Energy Institute, selected by  
12 the President of the Nuclear Energy Institute; and

13                           (iv)  one representative from a national nuclear educational nonprofit  
14 organization, selected by the American Nuclear Society.

15           (c)    To the extent practicable, the membership of the Task Force shall reflect the  
16 gender, racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State.

17           (d)    The Director of the Maryland Energy Administration shall designate the chair  
18 of the Task Force.

19           (e)    The Maryland Energy Administration shall provide staff for the Task Force.

20           (f)    A member of the Task Force:

21                   (1)    may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

24           (g)    The Task Force shall:

25                   (1)    identify the barriers to the deployment of nuclear power generation  
26 resources and other related technologies in the State, including regulatory, statutory,  
27 financial, social, environmental, workforce, and educational barriers;

28                   (2)    develop recommendations that a permanent nuclear energy  
29 commission may use to address the barriers to the deployment of nuclear power generation  
30 and other related technologies in the State;

1 (3) consult with any federal, state, or local agencies, nonprofit  
2 organizations, private industry representatives, or other stakeholders on the role of a  
3 permanent nuclear energy commission in the State;

4 (4) study whether different types of incentives should be created for  
5 different levels of nuclear development, including customer-sited residential and  
6 nonresidential, aggregated net metered, community nuclear, and utility scale nuclear,  
7 based on cost variance and other factors; and

8 (5) make recommendations on incentives and other actions needed for the  
9 deployment of nuclear power generation resources and other related technologies in the  
10 State, including incentives and other actions to ensure:

11 (i) that the State meets its net-zero greenhouse gas emissions goals  
12 established in § 2-1204.2 of the Environment Article;

13 (ii) effective participation from minority business enterprises in  
14 nuclear development in the State;

15 (iii) that nuclear development in the State:

16 1. creates high-quality jobs with family-sustaining wages;  
17 and

18 2. includes training and outreach to communities where  
19 nuclear energy is generated or being developed;

20 (iv) equitable access to renewable energy in the State; and

21 (v) the efficient use of land in the State through maximizing the  
22 production of nuclear energy on previously developed property.

23 (h) (1) On or before December 30, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a report  
24 on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of  
25 the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

26 (2) The report shall include recommendations for the creation of a  
27 permanent nuclear energy commission in the State, including recommendations on:

28 (i) the organizational placement of the commission within a unit of  
29 the State;

30 (ii) staffing needs of the commission;

31 (iii) the mission statement and short- and long-term goals of the  
32 commission; and

1 (iv) the role of the commission in fostering the development of the  
2 nuclear power industry in the State.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
4 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June  
5 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be  
6 abrogated and of no further force and effect.