

SB0931/113024/1

BY: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 931
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 7, after “or” insert “front-of-the-meter”; strike beginning with “authorizing” in line 10 down through “circumstances;” in line 12; in line 14, after “systems;” insert “requiring the Department of Natural Resources to update a certain tool and analyze State-owned land suitable for solar energy development; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to develop a special solar contractor license;”; and in line 15, strike “partnerships” and substitute “procurement models”.

On page 2, in line 1, strike “7-306.2(o),”; and after line 3, insert:

“BY adding to

Article – State Government

Section 9-2017

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, in line 21, after “THE” insert “SITE”; in the same line, strike the first “OF” and substitute “UNDER”; and after line 29, insert:

“(4) “PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA” MEANS AN AREA CERTIFIED AS A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA UNDER § 2-518 OF THE AGRICULTURE ARTICLE.

(5) (I) “PROJECT AREA” MEANS AN AREA WITHIN WHICH CONSTRUCTION, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT STORAGE, GRADING, LANDSCAPING, AND RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR A PROJECT MAY OCCUR.

(II) “PROJECT AREA” INCLUDES ONE OR MORE CONTIGUOUS PARCELS OR PROPERTIES UNDER THE SAME OWNERSHIP OR LEASE AGREEMENT.”.

On page 5, in line 1, strike “**2 MEGAWATTS**” and substitute “**1 MEGAWATT**”; in line 3, strike “**SYSTEM’S**” and substitute “**STATION’S**”; in line 5, strike “**OR**”; in line 7, after “**TITLE;**” insert “**OR**

(III) IS PART OF AGGREGATE NET METERING UNDER § 7-306.3 OF THIS TITLE;;

in line 12, strike “**CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE**”; in line 13, strike “**IN ACCORDANCE WITH**” and substitute “**OR, FOR A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION THAT HAS THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE NOT MORE THAN 2 MEGAWATTS OF ELECTRICITY AS MEASURED BY THE ALTERNATING CURRENT RATING OF THE STATION’S INVERTER, THE LOCAL JURISDICTION VERIFIES THAT THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION MEETS ALL OF THE SITE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF**”; in the same line, strike “**AND**”; in line 14, strike “**(I)**” and substitute “**FOR A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION THAT HAS THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE MORE THAN 2 MEGAWATTS OF ELECTRICITY AS MEASURED BY THE ALTERNATING CURRENT RATING OF THE STATION’S INVERTER:**

(I);

and in line 17, after “**SUBTITLE**” insert “**; AND**

(3) THE CONSTRUCTION HAS RECEIVED APPROVAL FOR ALL LOCAL PERMITS REQUIRED UNDER § 7-207(H) OF THIS SUBTITLE".

On pages 5 and 6, strike beginning with "ON" in line 18 on page 5 down through "STATION" in line 5 on page 6 and substitute "**(1) A PERSON THAT SUBMITS AN APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-207 OR § 7-207.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL INCLUDE WITH THE APPLICATION WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION OR OTHER EVIDENCE SHOWING THAT THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTIONS (F) AND (G) OF THIS SECTION.**

(2) FOR A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION THAT HAS THE CAPACITY TO PRODUCE NOT MORE THAN 2 MEGAWATTS OF ELECTRICITY AS MEASURED BY THE ALTERNATING CURRENT RATING OF THE STATION'S INVERTER, A PERSON THAT SUBMITS A SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO A LOCAL JURISDICTION SHALL INCLUDE WITH THE PLAN WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION OR OTHER EVIDENCE SHOWING THAT THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTIONS (F) AND (G) OF THIS SECTION".

On page 6, in line 6, after "(E)" insert "**(1)**"; in the same line, strike "REVIEWING AN APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL UNDER" and substitute "**VERIFYING WHETHER THE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTIONS (F) AND (G) OF**"; in line 7, after "COMMISSION" insert "**OR LOCAL JURISDICTION**"; strike beginning with the colon in line 7 down through "(2)" in line 11 and substitute a comma; in line 16, after "LOCATED" insert "**TO COLLECT COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK.**

(2) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE MEETINGS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE HELD:

1. IN THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION IS TO BE LOCATED; AND

2. WITHIN 10 MILES OF THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION.

(II) IF THE OWNER OF A PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION CANNOT FIND A MEETING LOCATION THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE OWNER MAY SELECT AN ALTERNATIVE LOCATION THAT IS AS CLOSE AS PRACTICABLE TO THE LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION”;

in line 17, strike “AN” and substitute “**EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (9) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN**”; strike beginning with “ANY” in line 20 down through “STATION” in line 21 and substitute “**THE NEAREST WALL OF A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING**”; in line 22, strike “50” and substitute “**100**”; strike beginning with “ANY” in line 23 down through “STATION” in line 24 and substitute “**ALL PROPERTY LINES, NOT INCLUDING PROPERTY LINES THAT BISECT THE INTERIOR OF A PROJECT AREA**”; in line 26, strike “AROUND THE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION” and substitute “**ONLY ON THE INTERIOR OF A LANDSCAPE BUFFER OR IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION**”; in line 27, strike “AND”; in line 28, after “HEIGHT;” insert:

“C. THAT IS ONLY BLACK OR GREEN VINYL WIRE MESH IF THE OWNER PROPOSES TO USE CHAIN LINK FENCING; AND

D. THAT IS NOT LESS THAN 50 FEET AWAY FROM THE EDGE OF ANY PUBLIC ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY;;

and in line 31, strike “AND”.

On page 7, in line 2, strike “IF REQUIRED BY THE LOCAL JURISDICTION.” and substitute “**IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION;**”; after line 2, insert:

“(V) EXCEPT FOR EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR INTERCONNECTION WITH ELECTRIC SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE, MAY NOT LOCATE ANY SOLAR ARRAY, ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT, OR ACCESSORY BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES WITHIN A PUBLIC ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY;

(VI) 1. SHALL MITIGATE THE VISUAL IMPACT OF THE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION ON A PRESERVATION AREA, RURAL LEGACY AREA, PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA, PUBLIC PARK, SCENIC RIVER OR BYWAY, DESIGNATED HERITAGE AREA, OR HISTORIC STRUCTURE OR SITE LISTED ON OR ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES OR RELEVANT COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES; AND

2. SHALL INCLUDE IN AN APPLICATION FOR A SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN A VIEWSHED ANALYSIS FOR ANY AREA, STRUCTURE, OR SITE SPECIFIED IN ITEM 1 OF THIS ITEM; AND

(VII) SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE OF EACH PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION TO THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES OF EACH COUNTY IN WHICH ANY PORTION OF THE GENERATING STATION IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED, INCLUDING A MAP OF THE PROPOSED GENERATING STATION AND THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF ANY SOLAR COLLECTOR OR ISOLATOR SWITCH.”;

(Over)

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in line 5, after “BUFFER” insert “OR VEGETATIVE SCREENING”; strike beginning with “BE” in line 7 down through the second “FEET” in line 13 and substitute “BE NOT MORE THAN 35 FEET WIDE”;

(II) BE PROVIDED ALONG:

1. ALL PROPERTY LINES;

2. LOCATIONS OF THE EXTERIOR BOUNDARY FOR THE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION WHERE EXISTING WOODED VEGETATION OF 50 FEET OR MORE IN WIDTH DOES NOT EXIST; OR

3. AN ALTERNATIVE LOCATION WITHIN THE BOUNDARY FOR THE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION IF THE OWNER DEMONSTRATES THAT THE ALTERNATIVE LOCATION WOULD MAXIMIZE THE VISUAL SCREENING;

(III) PROVIDE FOR FOUR-SEASON VISUAL SCREENING OF THE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION;

(IV) BE PLACED BETWEEN ANY FENCING AND THE PUBLIC VIEW;

(V) INCLUDE MULTILAYERED, STAGGERED ROWS OF OVERSTORY AND UNDERSTORY TREES AND SHRUBS THAT:

1. ARE A MIXTURE OF EVERGREEN AND DECIDUOUS VEGETATION;

2. ARE PREDOMINANTLY NATIVE TO THE REGION;
 3. ARE MORE THAN 4 FEET IN HEIGHT AT PLANTING;
 4. ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SCREENING OR BUFFERING WITHIN 5 YEARS OF PLANTING;
 5. MAY NOT BE TRIMMED TO STUNT UPWARD OR OUTWARD GROWTH OR TO OTHERWISE LIMIT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE VISUAL SCREEN;
 6. CONFORM TO THE PLANT SIZE SPECIFICATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE AMERICAN STANDARD FOR NURSERY STOCK (ANSI Z60.1); AND
 7. ARE SPECIFIED IN A LANDSCAPING PLAN PREPARED BY A QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT;
- (VI) BE INSTALLED AS EARLY IN THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS AS PRACTICABLE AND BEFORE THE ACTIVATION OF THE PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION;
- (VII) PRESERVE TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND SUPPLEMENTED WITH NEW PLANTINGS WHERE NECESSARY, ANY FOREST OR HEDGEROW THAT EXISTS AT A LOCATION WHERE VISUAL SCREENING OR LANDSCAPE BUFFERING IS REQUIRED; AND

(Over)

(VIII) SHALL BE MAINTAINED WITH A 90% SURVIVAL THRESHOLD FOR THE LIFE OF THE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM THROUGH A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT THAT INCLUDES A WATERING PLAN”;

in line 21, after “NATIVE” insert “OR NONINVASIVE NATURALIZED”; in line 23, strike “FIRST 3 YEARS OF THE”; and in line 27, after “INVASIVE” insert “AND NOXIOUS”.

On page 8, in line 1, strike “3” and substitute “5”; in line 2, strike “50%” and substitute “100%”; in line 5, after “(5)” insert “(I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPHS (II) AND (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, A LOCAL JURISDICTION SHALL HOLD ANY LANDSCAPING BOND REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (4)(VI) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR 5 YEARS.

(II) A LOCAL JURISDICTION SHALL RELEASE 50% OF THE LANDSCAPING BOND IF, ON INSPECTION, THE VEGETATIVE PROTECTIONS MEET A 90% SURVIVAL THRESHOLD.

(III) FOLLOWING THE RELEASE OF A LANDSCAPING BOND UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE REMAINING LANDSCAPING BOND SHALL BE HELD FOR AN ADDITIONAL 2 YEARS AND, ON FURTHER INSPECTION AND CONFIRMATION THAT THE VEGETATIVE PROTECTIONS CONTINUE TO MEET A 90% SURVIVAL THRESHOLD, SHALL BE RELEASED.

(6) AN OWNER OF A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL STATE LAWS RELATING TO:

(I) STORMWATER MANAGEMENT;

(II) EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL;

(III) SITE STABILIZATION;

(IV) IMPACTS ON SOIL DENSITY AND COMPACTION; AND

(V) IMPACTS ON GROUND COVER UNDER THE PANELS.

(7)”;

after line 7, insert:

“(8) (I) THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY TO:

1. EQUIPMENT NECESSARY FOR INTERCONNECTION WITH THE ELECTRIC SYSTEM; OR

2. SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATIONS LOCATED ON LAND THAT ARE ALSO USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

(II) A PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION AND ANY ACCESSORY STRUCTURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE STATION MUST HAVE AN AVERAGE HEIGHT OF NOT MORE THAN 15 FEET.

(9) SETBACKS FOR SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATIONS:

(I) SHALL BE MEASURED FROM THE PROPERTY BOUNDARY TO THE NEAREST SOLAR ARRAY OR ACCESSORY EQUIPMENT, BUILDINGS, OR FACILITIES THAT GENERATE, MAINTAIN, OPERATE, MANAGE, DISTRIBUTE, AND TRANSMIT ELECTRICITY; AND

(Over)

(II) MAY NOT APPLY TO ANY INTERCONNECTION TIE LINE OR FACILITY THAT CONNECTS A SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION TO THE ELECTRIC SYSTEM.

(10) (I) THE OWNER OF A PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION MAY PROVIDE TO THE COMMISSION OR LOCAL JURISDICTION WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION OF A SITING AGREEMENT:

1. ENTERED INTO WITH THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION IS TO BE LOCATED; AND

2. THAT PROVIDES LESS STRINGENT RESTRICTIONS THAN THOSE SPECIFIED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

(II) IF A PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION PROVIDES TO THE COMMISSION OR LOCAL JURISDICTION WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBSECTION.”;

in line 12, strike “100%” and substitute “125%”; in the same line, after the first “THE” insert “ESTIMATED FUTURE”; in line 17, strike “A” and substitute “EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (3) AND (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A”; in line 24, after “SHALL” insert “:

(I)”;

in line 26, after “SECTION” insert “; AND

(II) FOR SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATIONS WITH A GENERATING CAPACITY OF NOT MORE THAN 5 MEGAWATTS, AS MEASURED BY THE ALTERNATING CURRENT RATING OF THE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION’S INVERTER, PROCESS THE SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPLICATION AS A PERMITTED USE SUBJECT TO THE REVIEW STANDARDS IN § 4-205 OF THE LAND USE ARTICLE”;

and after line 26, insert:

“(3) A GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION WITH A GENERATING CAPACITY OF MORE THAN 5 MEGAWATTS, AS MEASURED BY THE ALTERNATING CURRENT RATING OF THE SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION’S INVERTER, MAY NOT BE LOCATED ON ANY LOT, PARCEL, OR TRACT OF LAND THAT, AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025, IS LOCATED WITHIN:

(I) A TIER 1 OR TIER 2 MAPPED LOCALLY DESIGNATED GROWTH AREA ADOPTED UNDER § 1-506 OF THE LAND USE ARTICLE;

(II) A MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREA OR HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AREA, AS DEFINED IN § 5-1601 OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES ARTICLE; OR

(III) A MIXED-USE AREA WITH A RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT.

(4) (I) THE TOTAL COMBINED NUMBER OF SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING STATIONS THAT MAY BE APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION IN A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA THAT WAS ESTABLISHED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, SHALL:

(Over)

1. BE LIMITED IN AREA TO 5% OF THE TOTAL ACREAGE OF THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA;

2. BE LOCATED IN THE PROJECT AREA WITHIN THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA; AND

3. MEET ALL REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

(II) THE PROHIBITIONS IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DO NOT APPLY TO THE REMAINING 95% OF A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA ONCE THE 5% LIMITATION UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED FOR THE PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA.

(III) A COUNTY SHALL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION WHEN THE 5% LIMITATION UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED FOR A PRIORITY PRESERVATION AREA.”.

On pages 8 and 9, strike beginning with “(1)” in line 27 on page 8 down through “STATION” in line 2 on page 9 and substitute “**THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AGRIVOLTAICS, AS DEFINED IN § 7-306.2 OF THIS TITLE, THAT ARE LOCATED ON LAND ASSESSED FOR AGRICULTURAL USE, OTHER THAN USE AS AN APIARY OR A POLLINATOR HABITAT, UNDER § 8-209 OF THE TAX – PROPERTY ARTICLE**”.

On page 9, in line 16, after “WITH” insert “**REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER**”; and in line 18, strike “ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES” and substitute “**A FRONT-OF-THE-METER ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE**”.

On page 9 in line 14, on page 10 in lines 13 and 26, and on page 11 in line 3, in each instance, strike “AN” and substitute “**A FRONT-OF-THE-METER**”.

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On page 10, in line 1, strike “RESIDENTS AND OWNERS OF PROPERTY THAT IS” and substitute “AFFECTED COMMUNITIES THAT ARE”; strike beginning with “IF” in line 5 down through “(2)” in line 8; in line 13, strike “(3)” and substitute “(2)”; and in line 16, after “DEVICE” insert “THAT WILL NOT BE CONSTRUCTED AT A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL LOCATION”.

On page 10, in lines 8 and 16, and on page 11 in lines 2, 15, 17, 21, and 24, in each instance, before “ENERGY” insert “FRONT-OF-THE-METER”.

On page 11, after line 25, insert:

“(G) THE COMMISSION MAY WAIVE OR MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTIONS (C), (D), AND (E) OF THIS SECTION FOR GOOD CAUSE.

“(H) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 11, in line 28, after “(2)” insert “(I)”; and in the same line, after “land” insert “:

1. THAT ARE MAINTAINED IN AGRICULTURAL USE IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMAR 18.02.03 AND THE MARYLAND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES MANUAL; AND

2.”.

On page 12, in lines 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13, strike “(i)”, “(ii)”, “(iii)”, “(iv)”, “(v)”, “(vi)”, “(vii)”, “(viii)”, “(ix)”, and “(x)”, respectively, and substitute “A.”, “B.”, “C.”, “D.”, “E.”, “F.”, “G.”, “H.”, “I.”, and “J.”, respectively; in line 13, after “activity” insert

(Over)

“UNDER COMAR 18.02.03 OR THE MARYLAND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES MANUAL THAT IS”; in the same line, strike “by the Department of Agriculture”; in line 14, after “activity” insert “UNDER COMAR 18.02.03 OR THE MARYLAND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES MANUAL”; and after line 14, insert:

“(II) “AGRIVOLTAICS” DOES NOT INCLUDE THE SIMULTANEOUS USE OF AREAS OF LAND FOR BOTH SOLAR POWER GENERATION AND:

1. APIARIES; OR
2. POLLINATOR HABITAT.”.

On page 14, strike in their entirety lines 6 through 8, inclusive; in lines 9, 15, 17, 19, 22, and 24, strike “(10)”, “(11)”, “(12)”, “(13)”, “(14)”, and “(15)”, respectively, and substitute “(9)”, “(10)”, “(11)”, “(12)”, “(13)”, and “(14)”, respectively.

On page 15, in lines 1, 6, 13, 22, 24, and 26, strike “(16)”, “(17)”, “(19)”, “(20)”, “(21)”, and “(22)”, respectively, and substitute “(15)”, “(16) (I)”, “(18)”, “(19)”, “(20)”, and “(21)”, respectively; and in line 11, strike “(18)” and substitute “(II) “SUBSCRIBER ORGANIZATION” MAY INCLUDE A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

(17)”.

On pages 16 through 19, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 22 on page 16 through line 19 on page 19, inclusive.

On page 20, in line 20, after “establish” insert “power purchase agreements.”; in line 21, after “suppliers” insert “, or other procurement models”; in lines 23 and 24, strike

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“a partnership for a generating station” and substitute “any of the procurement models specified in subsection (a) of this section”; in line 26, strike “by a partnership” and substitute “under any of the procurement models specified in subsection (a) of this section”; in line 28, strike the first “the” and substitute “an”; in the same line, after “partnership” insert “with an electric company”; in line 30, strike “the” and substitute “an”; and in lines 30 and 31, strike “in a partnership” and substitute “using a procurement model specified in subsection (a) of this section”.

On page 21, in lines 3, 6 and 7, 11, and 18, in each instance, strike “by a partnership” and substitute “under any of the procurement models specified in subsection (a) of this section”; in line 8, strike “generating station qualifies as a partnership to” and substitute “procurement model will”; in line 12, strike “proposed generating station qualifies as a partnership to” and substitute “procurement model will”; and in line 19, strike “potential partnerships” and substitute “procurement models specified in subsection (a) of this section”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 20, in line 8, strike “**COMMISSION AND THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION**” and substitute “**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**”; in line 10, strike “**TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS**” and substitute “**A SPECIAL SOLAR CONTRACTOR LICENSE**”; and after line 17, insert:

“Article – State Government

9–2017.

(A) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2026, TO ASSIST THE STATE IN MEETING ITS SOLAR ENERGY COMMITMENTS UNDER TITLE 7, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING,

(Over)

SHALL UPDATE THE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE SMARTDG+ TOOL TO INCLUDE STATE-OWNED LAND SUITABLE FOR SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT.

(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, SHALL ANALYZE LAND OWNED BY THE STATE TO IDENTIFY LAND SUITABLE FOR SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT TO ASSIST THE STATE IN MEETING ITS SOLAR ENERGY COMMITMENTS UNDER TITLE 7, SUBTITLE 7 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE.”.