

HOUSE BILL 155

C9

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0160
CF SB 247

By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request –
Departmental – Housing and Community Development)**

Requested: October 16, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Housing and Community Development – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions**
3 **– Issuance of Loans and Achievement of Targets**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Housing and Community Development
5 to issue loans, in addition to grants, for certain purposes relating to reducing direct
6 greenhouse gas emissions from certain multifamily residential buildings; expanding
7 the sources of savings that the Department may ~~include~~ procure and provide when
8 calculating the achievement of certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets;
9 and generally relating to greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Housing and Community Development
12 Section 4–211(d)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
16 Article – Public Utilities
17 Section 7–224(a) and (b)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

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.



1 Article – Public Utilities
2 Section 7–224(c)
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Housing and Community Development**

8 4–211.

9 (d) (1) (i) In this subsection the following words have the meanings
10 indicated.

11 (ii) “Covered building” has the meaning stated in § 2–1601 of the
12 Environment Article.

13 (iii) “Energy conservation project” means a project that qualifies
14 under § 4–218 of this subtitle.

15 (2) For the purpose of reducing direct greenhouse gas emissions from
16 multifamily residential buildings in accordance with the standards adopted under § 2–1602
17 of the Environment Article, the Administration shall develop and implement a program to
18 provide grants **AND LOANS** for energy conservation projects and projects to install
19 renewable energy generating systems in covered buildings that house primarily low- to
20 moderate-income households.

21 (3) Grants **AND LOANS** provided under this subsection may not be used for
22 a project to install new equipment that uses fossil fuels or improve the efficiency of existing
23 equipment that uses fossil fuels.

24 (4) In each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026, the Governor shall include in
25 the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Department for the purpose of
26 providing grants **AND LOANS** under this subsection.

27 (5) On or before December 1, 2023, and each December 1 thereafter, the
28 Administration shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
29 Government Article, the General Assembly on the projects funded under this subsection.

30 **Article – Public Utilities**

31 7–224.

32 (a) (1) Beginning January 1, 2025, and on or before January 1 every 3 years,
33 starting in 2027, the Department shall procure or provide to low-income individuals energy
34 efficiency and conservation programs and services, demand response programs and

1 services, and beneficial electrification programs and services that achieve the greenhouse
2 gas emissions reduction targets established for the Department under paragraph (2) of this
3 subsection.

4 (2) For the period 2025–2033, the programs and services required under
5 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be on a trajectory to achieve greenhouse gas
6 reductions after 2027 of at least 0.9% of the baseline determined under subsection (b) of
7 this section.

8 (3) (i) When establishing greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets
9 under this subsection, the Commission shall measure the greenhouse gas emissions from
10 electricity using current data and projections from the Department of the Environment.

11 (ii) The greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets established
12 under this subsection shall be measured in metric tons.

13 (4) The greenhouse gas reductions achieved to meet the targets established
14 under paragraph (2) of this subsection shall count toward the achievement of the
15 greenhouse gas reduction target established under § 7–223(b) of this subtitle.

16 (5) The target greenhouse gas savings shall be achieved based on the
17 3–year average of the Department’s plan submitted in accordance with subsection (d) of
18 this section.

19 (6) For 2025 and 2026:

20 (i) the Commission shall, after making appropriate findings,
21 determine whether the Department’s existing 2024–2026 plan must be modified to comply
22 with:

23 1. the targets established in this subsection; and

24 2. § 7–225(d) of this subtitle; and

25 (ii) the Department:

26 1. shall provide information as required by the Commission
27 to assist in making the determination in item (i) of this paragraph; and

28 2. is only required to file new plans in accordance with
29 subsection (d) of this section and § 7–225 of this subtitle if directed by the Commission.

30 (b) As a baseline for determining greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets
31 under this section, the Commission shall use the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from
32 the direct consumption of gas and electricity by low–income residential households in 2016,
33 as determined by the Department of the Environment.

1 (c) [(1) The] **WHEN CALCULATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GREENHOUSE**
 2 **GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS UNDER THIS SECTION, THE** Department may
 3 ~~procure or provide~~ ~~INCLUDE~~ savings that are achieved through [funding sources that
 4 meet the standards of program funding through utility rates or the U.S. Department of
 5 Energy] **ALL FUNDING SOURCES, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE SAVINGS FROM THOSE**
 6 **FUNDING SOURCES ARE ACHIEVED:**

7 (1) **IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH REQUIREMENTS OF THE U.S.**
 8 **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY; OR**

9 (2) **IN A MANNER OTHERWISE CONSISTENT WITH THE ENERGY**
 10 **SAVINGS REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THOSE FUNDING SOURCES.**

11 [(2) The Department may use the savings achieved through all funding
 12 sources toward calculating the targeted greenhouse gas reductions if the funding sources
 13 meet the standards of programs funded through:

14 (i) a surcharge under § 7-222 of this subtitle; or

15 (ii) the U.S. Department of Energy.]

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 17 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.