

HOUSE BILL 903

D1, M3

5lr1363

By: **Delegates Buckel, Adams, Arentz, Arikan, Baker, Beauchamp, Bouchat, Chisholm, Ciliberti, Ghrist, Grammer, Griffith, Hartman, Hinebaugh, Hornberger, Howard, Hutchinson, Jacobs, Kipke, R. Long, Mangione, McComas, Miller, M. Morgan, T. Morgan, Nawrocki, Nkongolo, Otto, Pippy, Reilly, Rose, Schmidt, Stonko, Szeliga, Tomlinson, Valentine, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Global Warming and Climate Change – Prohibited Actions**
3 **(Ratepayer Protection Act of 2025)**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the State or a local government, or an agency of the State
5 or a local government, from filing certain actions against a business for the adverse
6 effects of global warming or climate change in the State; and generally relating to
7 prohibiting the filing of certain actions related to global warming and climate
8 change.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Commercial Law
11 Section 14–3501(a) and (b)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
16 Section 5–428
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Commercial Law**

22 14–3501.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (b) (1) “Business” means a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation,
3 association, or any other business entity, whether or not organized to operate at a profit.

4 (2) “Business” includes a financial institution organized, chartered,
5 licensed, or otherwise authorized under the laws of this State, any other state, the United
6 States, or any other country, and the parent or subsidiary of a financial institution.

7 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

8 **5-428.**

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

11 **(2) “BUSINESS” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 14-3501 OF THE**
12 **COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE.**

13 **(3) “CLIMATE CHANGE” MEANS THE INCREASING CHANGES IN THE**
14 **MEASURES OF CLIMATE OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, INCLUDING PRECIPITATION,**
15 **TEMPERATURE, AND WIND PATTERNS.**

16 **(4) “GLOBAL WARMING” MEANS THE RISE IN GLOBAL**
17 **TEMPERATURES DUE TO THE INCREASING CONCENTRATIONS OF GREENHOUSE**
18 **GASES IN THE ATMOSPHERE.**

19 **(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT:**

20 **(1) PROHIBIT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, THE STATE, OR A LOCAL**
21 **GOVERNMENT FROM ENFORCING HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL, ZONING, OR ANY**
22 **OTHER APPLICABLE LAW; OR**

23 **(2) RELIEVE A BUSINESS FROM THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMPLYING**
24 **WITH THE TERMS OF ANY APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAW.**

25 **(C) THE STATE OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR AN AGENCY OF THE STATE**
26 **OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MAY NOT FILE AN ACTION FOR MONETARY DAMAGES OR**
27 **ALLEGED ECONOMIC DAMAGES AGAINST A BUSINESS FOR THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF**
28 **GLOBAL WARMING OR CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE STATE.**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2025.