

SENATE BILL 425

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By: **Senator Jackson**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Coal Combustion By-Products – Fees, Coordinating Committee,**
3 **and Regulations**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that a certain base fee established by the Department of the
5 Environment that is paid by a certain generator of coal combustion by-products is
6 not less than a certain amount; altering the factors that the Department is required
7 to consider in establishing a certain fee; establishing the Statewide Coal Combustion
8 By-Products Coordinating Committee to share information, monitoring results, and
9 certain remedial actions with respect to certain coal combustion by-product sites;
10 requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations on or before a certain date to
11 implement certain federal guidelines and rules; and generally relating to the
12 regulation of coal combustion by-products in the State.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Environment
15 Section 9-283
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Environment
20 Section 9-291
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Environment**

26 9-283.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) **(1)** Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, by regulation, the
2 Department shall establish and collect a fee to be paid by a generator of coal combustion
3 by-products[, based on a].

4 **(2) THE BASE FEE ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS**
5 **SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE LESS THAN \$2.30** per ton [rate] of coal combustion
6 by-products generated by the generator annually.

7 (b) The Department shall base the fees on the following factors:

8 (1) The total annual tonnage of coal combustion by-products that the
9 generator generates;

10 (2) The type and volume of coal combustion by-products generated by the
11 generator;

12 (3) Whether the generator uses or disposes of the coal combustion
13 by-products;

14 (4) To the extent that the coal combustion by-products are used rather
15 than disposed of, the types of the uses;

16 (5) Whether the coal combustion by-products are transported for use or
17 disposal out-of-state; [and]

18 **(6) THE VOLUME OF COAL COMBUSTION BY-PRODUCTS THAT HAVE**
19 **BEEN DISPOSED OF AND REMAIN IN LANDFILLS OR OTHER STORAGE UNITS IN THE**
20 **STATE THAT ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION AND MONITORING, NOT INCLUDING COAL**
21 **COMBUSTION BY-PRODUCTS THAT HAVE BEEN:**

22 **(I) ADDED TO CEMENT PRODUCTS;**

23 **(II) USED IN COAL MINE RECLAMATION; OR**

24 **(III) BENEFICIALLY REUSED IN A MANNER ACCEPTABLE TO THE**
25 **DEPARTMENT; AND**

26 **(7)** Other factors the Department considers appropriate.

27 (c) The Department may not establish or impose a fee on coal combustion
28 by-products that are:

29 (1) Beneficially used, as the Department determines; or

1 (2) Used for coal mine reclamation in accordance with regulations the
2 Department adopts or with regulations of the receiving state.

3 (d) Fees imposed on coal combustion by-products that are transported for use or
4 disposal out-of-state may not exceed 50% of the fees established for disposal in-State.

5 (e) The fees collected by the Department under this section shall be deposited into
6 the Fund and used in accordance with § 9-284 of this subtitle.

7 (f) The fees imposed shall be set at the rate necessary to implement the purposes
8 set forth in § 9-284 of this subtitle.

9 (g) In any fiscal year, if the fee schedule established by the Department generates
10 revenue that exceeds the amount necessary to operate a regulatory program to control the
11 management of coal combustion by-products, the Department shall reduce the fees in the
12 following fiscal year.

13 **9-291.**

14 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, "COORDINATING COMMITTEE" MEANS THE**
15 **STATEWIDE COAL COMBUSTION BY-PRODUCTS COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

16 **(B) THERE IS A STATEWIDE COAL COMBUSTION BY-PRODUCTS**
17 **COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

18 **(C) THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING**
19 **MEMBERS:**

20 **(1) THE SECRETARY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

21 **(2) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMISSION ON**
22 **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES;**

23 **(3) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POWER PLANT RESEARCH**
24 **PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES; AND**

25 **(4) THREE MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY, EACH WITH**
26 **TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:**

27 **(I) COAL COMBUSTION BY-PRODUCTS;**

28 **(II) PUBLIC HEALTH; AND**

29 **(III) WATER QUALITY.**

1 **(D) THE SECRETARY SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE COORDINATING**
2 **COMMITTEE.**

3 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE POWER PLANT RESEARCH PROGRAM IN**
4 **THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES SHALL JOINTLY PROVIDE STAFF FOR**
5 **THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

6 **(F) A MEMBER OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE:**

7 **(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE**
8 **COORDINATING COMMITTEE; BUT**

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

11 **(G) THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE SHALL:**

12 **(1) BEGINNING IN 2026, MEET AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR, AT THE TIMES**
13 **AND PLACES THAT THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE DETERMINES; AND**

14 **(2) WITH RESPECT TO COAL COMBUSTION BY-PRODUCT SITES:**

15 **(I) SHARE INFORMATION ON MONITORING RESULTS; AND**

16 **(II) DISCUSS REMEDIAL ACTION THAT IS IN PROCESS, THAT IS**
17 **STILL REQUIRED, OR BOTH.**

18 **(H) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2026, AND EACH OCTOBER 1 THEREAFTER,**
19 **THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS DURING THE**
20 **IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON**
21 **EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE HOUSE ENVIRONMENT**
22 **AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**
23 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

25 (a) The Department of the Environment shall:

26 (1) on or before December 1, 2025, update regulations in accordance with §
27 9-283 of the Environment Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act; and

28 (2) on or before October 1, 2026, adopt regulations to implement:

1 (i) the federal Steam Electric Power Generating Effluent guidelines
2 as adopted on May 9, 2024; and

3 (ii) the final rule governing legacy coal combustion residuals as
4 adopted on May 9, 2024.

5 (b) In adopting regulations in accordance with subsection (a)(2)(ii) of this section,
6 the Department of the Environment may amend the regulations as necessary to protect
7 human health and the environment in the State, including:

8 (1) targeting actions at specific locations where coal combustion
9 by-products have been used previously; and

10 (2) expanding the list of chemicals required to be tested beyond those
11 required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to include:

12 (i) arsenic;

13 (ii) boron;

14 (iii) cadmium;

15 (iv) hexavalent chromium;

16 (v) radium 226;

17 (vi) selenium;

18 (vii) vanadium; and

19 (viii) other chemicals as determined by the Department of the
20 Environment.

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2025.