M3 5lr2116 CF 5lr2117

By: Senator Lam

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025 Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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Environmental Permits – Requirements for Public Participation and Impact and Burden Analyses
 (Cumulative Harms to Environmental Restoration for Improving Shared Health – CHERISH Our Communities Act)

FOR the purpose of applying certain public participation requirements to permits for certain projects that have been identified in a certain manner as having an increased potential for adverse community environmental and public health impacts; requiring a person applying for certain permits for certain projects with an increased potential to cause adverse community environmental and public health impacts to include in the permit application a certain environmental impact analysis and, if the project is located within a certain radius from the boundary of a certain census tract, an existing burden report prepared in a certain manner; requiring the Department of the Environment to make a certain determination, after review of certain information, as to whether a certain project may cause or contribute to an increased potential of certain adverse impacts; requiring the Department to deny a permit under certain circumstances, subject to a certain exception; requiring the Department to make certain enforcement information available in a certain manner; requiring that a certain percentage of revenue from certain enforcement actions be distributed to a special fund for certain purposes; requiring the Secretary of the Environment to prepare a certain recommendation in connection with certain issues considered by the Public Service Commission; and generally relating to environmental permits.

- 24 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 25 Article Environment
- 26 Section 1–601(a), 1–601.1, 1–602(a), and 2–405(a)
- 27 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 28 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
- 29 BY adding to

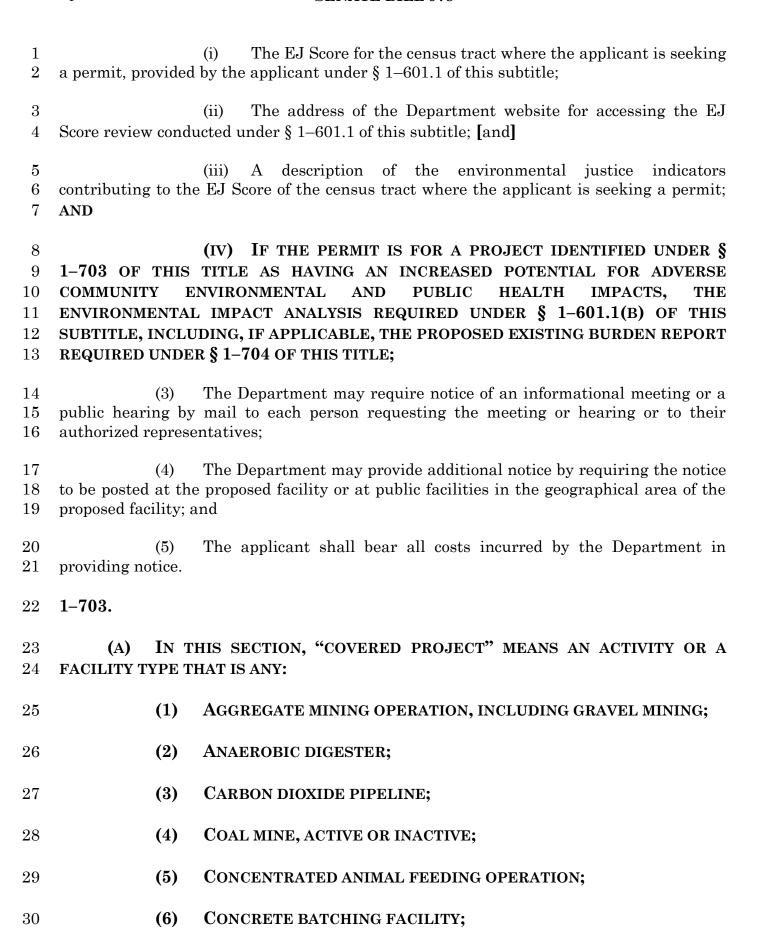
	2 SENATE BILL 376
1 2 3 4	Article – Environment Section 1–703 through 1–705 Annotated Code of Maryland (2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
5 6	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
7	Article – Environment
8	1–601.
9	(a) Permits issued by the Department under the following sections shall be issued in accordance with this subtitle:
1	(1) Air quality control permits to construct subject to $\S 2-404$ of this article
$\frac{12}{3}$	(2) Permits to install, materially alter, or materially extend landfill systems, incinerators for public use, or rubble landfills subject to § 9–209 of this article;
14 15	(3) Permits to discharge pollutants to waters of the State issued [pursuant to] IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9–323 of this article;
16 17 18	(4) Permits to install, materially alter, or materially extend a structure used for storage or distribution of any type of sewage sludge issued, renewed, or amended [pursuant to] IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9–234.1 or § 9–238 of this article;
19 20	(5) Permits to own, operate, establish, or maintain a controlled hazardous substance facility issued [pursuant to] IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–232 of this article;
21 22	(6) Permits to own, operate, or maintain a hazardous material facility issued [pursuant to] IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–103 of this article;
23 24	(7) Permits to own, operate, establish, or maintain a low-level nuclear waste facility issued [pursuant to] IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–233 of this article; [and]
25 26	(8) Potable reuse permits issued in accordance with § 9–303.2 of this article; AND
27	(9) PERMITS FOR PROJECTS IDENTIFIED UNDER § 1–703 OF THIS

30 1–601.1.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS.

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- 1 (a) A person applying for a permit listed under § 1–601(a) of this subtitle shall 2 include in the permit application the EJ Score from the Maryland EJ tool for the census 3 tract where the applicant is seeking a permit, unless the permit requires the applicant to 4 use a tool developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- 5 (b) In Addition to the requirement under subsection (a) of this 6 Section, a person applying for a new, renewal, or expansion permit for a 7 Project identified under § 1–703 of this title as having an increased 8 Potential for adverse community environmental and public health 9 Impacts shall include in the permit application an environmental 10 Impact analysis that includes:
- 11 (1) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PERMIT AND THE 12 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS OF THE SITE;
- 13 (2) THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PERMIT, DETAILING BOTH SHORT- AND LONG- TERM EFFECTS;
- 15 (3) ANY ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PERMIT;
- 16 (4) ANY IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED PERMIT;
- 18 **(5)** MITIGATION MEASURES PROPOSED TO MINIMIZE IDENTIFIED 19 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS; AND
- 20 **(6)** If APPLICABLE, A PROPOSED EXISTING BURDEN REPORT 21 REQUIRED UNDER § 1–704 OF THIS TITLE.
- (C) On receiving an application for a permit listed under § 1–601(a) of this subtitle, the Department shall, in accordance with regulations adopted under this section, review the EJ Score for the census tract where the applicant is seeking a permit using the Maryland EJ tool to verify the applicant's information.
- [(c)] (D) The Department shall adopt regulations to implement this section.
- 27 1-602.
- 28 (a) Wherever this subtitle requires the Department to publish notice:
- 29 (1) Notice shall be published at least once a week for 2 consecutive weeks 30 in a daily or weekly newspaper of general circulation in the geographical area in which the 31 proposed facility is located;
- 32 (2) The notice shall include:



1 2	(7) ENERGY-GENERATING FACILITY, EXCLUDING SOLAR, WIND, AND GEOTHERMAL FACILITIES;
3 4	(8) ENERGY STORAGE SITE, INCLUDING DATA CENTERS AND HYDROGEN HUBS;
5 6 7	(9) FOSSIL FUEL SHIPMENT, HANDLING, OR PROCESSING FACILITY, INCLUDING BULK SHIPPING TERMINALS AND ANY COMPONENT OF A FACILITY THAT PROCESSES OR STORES, OR BOTH, LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS;
8	(10) Incinerator, including incinerators for medical waste, municipal solid waste, animal waste, or woody biomass;
10 11	(11) LANDFILL, INCLUDING LANDFILLS THAT ACCEPT ASH, CONSTRUCTION OR DEMOLITION DEBRIS, OR SOLID WASTE;
12 13	(12) MANUFACTURING FACILITY, INCLUDING CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING;
14	(13) MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY;
15	(14) MILITARY TESTING AND RESEARCH SITE;
16	(15) PELLET FACTORY;
17	(16) REFINERY;
18	(17) SAWMILL;
19	(18) SCRAP METAL YARD;
20 21	(19) SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT WITH A CAPACITY OF MORE THAN 50,000,000 GALLONS PER DAY;
22	(20) SLUDGE PROCESSING FACILITY;
23	(21) SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION; OR
24	(22) SUPERFUND SITE.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IDENTIFY A COVERED PROJECT AS HAVING

AN INCREASED POTENTIAL FOR ADVERSE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL AND

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- 1 PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS IF THE COVERED PROJECT REQUIRES ANY OF THE
- 2 FOLLOWING PERMITS:
- 3 (1) AIR QUALITY CONTROL PERMITS TO CONSTRUCT, SUBJECT TO §
- **4 2–404 OF THIS ARTICLE**;
- 5 (2) NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
- 6 PERMITS:
- 7 (3) PERMITS TO OWN, OPERATE, OR MAINTAIN A HAZARDOUS
- 8 MATERIAL FACILITY ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–103 OF THIS ARTICLE;
- 9 (4) PERMITS TO OWN, OPERATE, OR MAINTAIN A LOW-LEVEL
- 10 NUCLEAR WASTE FACILITY ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–233 OF THIS ARTICLE;
- 11 (5) POTABLE REUSE PERMITS ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH §
- 12 **9–303.2** OF THIS ARTICLE;
- 13 **(6)** REFUSE DISPOSAL PERMITS;
- 14 (7) SEWAGE SLUDGE PERMITS;
- 15 (8) STATE-ONLY CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH TITLE V (PART 70)
- 16 PERMITS TO OPERATE; OR
- 17 (9) STATE PERMITS TO OPERATE MINOR AIR POLLUTION SOURCES
- 18 THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS NEEDING PERMITS TO
- 19 **OPERATE.**
- 20 **1-704**.
- 21 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
- 22 INDICATED.
- 23 (2) "AT-RISK CENSUS TRACT" MEANS A CENSUS TRACT FOR WHICH
- 24 THE FINAL EJ SCORE FROM THE MARYLAND EJ TOOL IS AT OR ABOVE THE 75TH
- 25 PERCENTILE.
- 26 (3) "COVERED PROJECT" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1–703(A) OF
- 27 THIS SUBTITLE.
- 28 (B) (1) AN APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT LISTED UNDER § 1–703(B)(1)
- 29 THROUGH (9) OF THIS SUBTITLE FOR A COVERED PROJECT THAT IS LOCATED

- 1 WITHIN A 1.5-MILE RADIUS FROM THE BOUNDARY OF AN AT-RISK CENSUS TRACT
- 2 SHALL INCLUDE A PROPOSED EXISTING BURDEN REPORT.
- 3 (2) THE PROPOSED EXISTING BURDEN REPORT REQUIRED UNDER
- 4 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:
- 5 (I) THE EJ SCORE FROM THE MARYLAND EJ TOOL FOR THE
- 6 CENSUS TRACT WHERE THE APPLICANT IS SEEKING A PERMIT;
- 7 (II) A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF EACH EXISTING POLLUTION
- 8 SOURCE, OR CATEGORY OF SOURCES, THAT IS IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY,
- 9 INCLUDING A DESCRIPTION OF POTENTIAL ROUTES OF HUMAN EXPOSURE TO
- 10 POLLUTION FROM EACH SOURCE OR CATEGORY IDENTIFIED;
- 11 (III) AMBIENT CONCENTRATIONS OF REGULATED AIR
- 12 POLLUTANTS AND REGULATED OR UNREGULATED HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS;
- 13 (IV) TRAFFIC VOLUME;
- 14 (V) GENERAL NOISE AND ODOR LEVELS;
- 15 (VI) EXPOSURE OR POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO LEAD, INCLUDING
- 16 LEAD-BASED PAINT;
- 17 (VII) EXPOSURE OR POTENTIAL EXPOSURE TO CONTAMINATED
- 18 DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES:
- 19 (VIII) PROXIMITY OF THE COVERED PROJECT TO EXISTING
- 20 SOURCES OF POLLUTION, INCLUDING:
- 21 SOLID OR HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES;
- 22 2. INCINERATORS:
- 23 RECYCLING FACILITIES;
- 24 WASTE TRANSFER FACILITIES; AND
- 5. Petroleum or chemical manufacturing,
- 26 STORAGE, TREATMENT, OR DISPOSAL FACILITIES;
- 27 (IX) THE POTENTIAL OR PROJECTED CONTRIBUTION OF THE
- 28 COVERED PROJECT TO EXISTING POLLUTION BURDENS IN THE COMMUNITY AND,

- 1 ACCOUNTING FOR THE EXISTING BURDEN, THE POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF
- 2 ANY CONTRIBUTION;
- 3 (X) AN EVALUATION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL AND
- 4 PUBLIC HEALTH STRESSORS BORNE BY THE COMMUNITY; AND
- 5 (XI) AN EVALUATION OF ANY UNAVOIDABLE ENVIRONMENTAL
- 6 AND PUBLIC HEALTH STRESSORS POSED BY THE COVERED PROJECT.
- 7 (C) (1) BEFORE APPROVING A COVERED PROJECT LOCATED WITHIN A
- 8 1.5-MILE RADIUS FROM THE BOUNDARY OF AN AT-RISK CENSUS TRACT, THE
- 9 DEPARTMENT, OR OTHER PERMITTING AGENCY, SHALL PREPARE, OR CAUSE TO BE
- 10 PREPARED, A FINAL EXISTING BURDEN REPORT.
- 11 (2) AN EXISTING BURDEN REPORT MAY BE FINALIZED ONLY IF:
- 12 (I) THE REPORT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY AND
- 13 SUFFICIENCY BY:
- 14 1. THE COMMISSION;
- 15 2. THE DEPARTMENT;
- 16 3. THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH;
- 17 4. ELECTED OFFICIALS REPRESENTING THE IMPACTED
- 18 **COMMUNITY**; AND
- 5. Any other environmental or public health
- 20 OFFICIAL THAT THE PERMITTING AGENCY DEEMS APPROPRIATE;
- 21 (II) THERE HAS BEEN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
- 22 ON THE EXISTING BURDEN REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 6 OF THIS
- 23 TITLE; AND
- 24 (III) A RECORD OF ALL PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED
- 25 EXISTING BURDEN REPORT AND PERMIT APPLICATION HAS BEEN INCORPORATED
- 26 INTO THE FINAL EXISTING BURDEN REPORT.
- 27 (3) A FINAL EXISTING BURDEN REPORT MAY BE BASED ALL OR IN
- 28 PART ON THE PROPOSED EXISTING BURDEN REPORT.

- 1 (D) (1) AFTER REVIEW OF THE FINAL EXISTING BURDEN REPORT UNDER 2 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS UNDER
- 3 § 1-601.1(B) OF THIS TITLE, AND ANY ACCOMPANYING PUBLIC COMMENTS, THE
- 4 DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE AN OFFICIAL DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER THE
- 5 REPORTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS INDICATE THAT THE COVERED PROJECT MAY,
- 6 DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, CAUSE OR CONTRIBUTE TO AN INCREASED POTENTIAL
- 7 FOR ADVERSE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS WITHIN
- 8 AN AT-RISK CENSUS TRACT.
- 9 (2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
- 10 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DENY A PERMIT FOR A COVERED PROJECT IF THE
- 11 DEPARTMENT DETERMINES UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION THAT THE
- 12 PROJECT WOULD CAUSE OR CONTRIBUTE TO AN INCREASED POTENTIAL FOR
- 13 ADVERSE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS IN AN
- 14 AT-RISK CENSUS TRACT.
- 15 (3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY APPROVE A CONDITIONAL NEW,
- 16 EXPANSION, OR RENEWAL PERMIT IF THE PERMIT APPLICANT CAN ESTABLISH THAT:
- 17 (I) THE PURPOSE OF THE PERMIT WOULD SERVE AN ESSENTIAL
- 18 ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, OR SAFETY NEED OF THE COMMUNITY; AND
- 19 (II) THERE IS NO REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PURPOSE
- 20 **OF THE PERMIT.**
- 21 (4) IF THE DEPARTMENT CONDITIONALLY APPROVES AN
- 22 APPLICATION FOR A NEW, EXPANSION, OR RENEWAL PERMIT UNDER PARAGRAPH (3)
- 23 OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:
- 24 (I) IMPOSE ADDITIONAL PERMIT CONDITIONS TO PROTECT
- 25 PUBLIC HEALTH; AND
- 26 (II) REQUIRE THE APPLICANT TO ENTER INTO A CUMULATIVE
- 27 IMPACTS MITIGATION FUND AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (E) OF
- 28 THIS SECTION.
- 29 (E) (1) A HOLDER OF A PERMIT CONDITIONALLY APPROVED UNDER
- 30 SUBSECTION (D)(4) OF THIS SECTION SHALL ENTER INTO A CUMULATIVE IMPACTS
- 31 MITIGATION FUND AGREEMENT WITH A COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION OR
- 32 COLLECTION OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING THE
- 33 COMMUNITY OR COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY THE COVERED PROJECT.

- 1 (2) (I) A CUMULATIVE IMPACTS MITIGATION FUND AGREEMENT 2 SHALL:

 1. ESTABLISH ONGOING PAYMENT OF FEES BY THE 4 PERMIT HOLDER INTO A PROJECT-SPECIFIC CUMULATIVE IMPACTS MITIGATION 5 FUND FOR THE LIFE OF THE PROJECT;
- 6 2. BE ENFORCEABLE IN A STATE COURT, AND INCLUDE 7 THIS INFORMATION IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE CONTRACT; AND
- 8 3. BENEFIT ALL RESIDENTS WHO LIVE WITHIN THE 9 AT-RISK CENSUS TRACT AFFECTED BY THE PROJECT.
- 10 (II) A CUMULATIVE IMPACTS MITIGATION FUND AGREEMENT
 11 MAY NOT RESTRICT THE RIGHT OF RESIDENTS OR ORGANIZATIONS TO EXPRESS
 12 CONCERNS ABOUT OR OBJECTIONS TO THE PROJECT.
- 13 **1–705.**
- 14 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE INFORMATION READILY AVAILABLE
 15 ONLINE REGARDING ANY ENFORCEMENT ACTION AGAINST A PERMITTED FACILITY
 16 LOCATED WITHIN A 1.5-MILE RADIUS OF THE BOUNDARY OF AN AT-RISK CENSUS
 17 TRACT, INCLUDING NOTICES OF VIOLATIONS IN ADDITION TO PENDING AND
 18 CONCLUDED ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.
- 19 **(B)** AT LEAST 25% OF THE REVENUE FROM ANY ENFORCEMENT ACTION 20 AGAINST A FACILITY LOCATED WITHIN A 1.5–MILE RADIUS OF THE BOUNDARY OF AN 21 AT-RISK CENSUS TRACT SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO A SPECIAL FUND TO BE USED TO 22 ASSIST AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.
- 23 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SPECIAL FUND AND APPROPRIATE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FUNDS TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.
- 27 2-405.
- (a) (1) (i) Whenever the Public Service Commission notifies the Secretary of an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity under § 7–207 of the Public Utilities Article, the Secretary shall prepare a recommendation in connection with the permit or registration required by this subtitle and the issues the Public Service Commission must consider under § 7–207 of the Public Utilities Article relating to climate change.

1 (ii) The recommendation shall be presented at the hearing required 2 by § 7–207 of the Public Utilities Article. 3 The recommendation shall identify the requirements of all applicable 4 federal and State environmental laws and standards and shall recommend and evaluate various methods and conditions for compliance. 5 6 FOR ANY CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY 7 ISSUED IN LIEU OF AN AIR QUALITY PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT THAT IS SUBJECT TO 8 THE REQUIREMENT TO PREPARE AN EXISTING BURDEN REPORT UNDER § 1–704 OF 9 THIS ARTICLE, THE RECOMMENDATION SHALL INCLUDE: 10 **(I)** THE FINAL EJ SCORE FROM THE MARYLAND EJ TOOL; 11 (II)THE FINDINGS OF THE EXISTING BURDEN REPORT; AND 12 (III) MEASURES TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF § 1–704(E) OF 13 THIS ARTICLE. 14 [(3)] **(4)** If a person files an application for an operating permit under this subtitle simultaneously with an application for a certificate, the Department shall 15 consolidate its procedures for the issuance of the operating permit with the Public Service 16 17 Commission's proceedings for issuance of the certificate and shall issue the operating 18 permit simultaneously with the certificate unless consolidation would be inconsistent with 19 the procedures set forth in the federal Clean Air Act. 20 [(4)] (5) The Department shall incorporate into the initial operating permit the conditions of the certificate which relate to air quality control. 21

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

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October 1, 2025.