

HOUSE BILL 647

M5, M1, M3

6lr2603

By: **Delegates Ivey and Fennell**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Power Plant Research Program – Study on Nuclear Energy**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Power Plant Research Program to study and make
4 recommendations on nuclear energy and its role as a renewable energy resource; and
5 generally relating to a study on nuclear energy.

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That:

8 (a) The Power Plant Research Program shall study and make recommendations
9 on nuclear energy and its role as a renewable energy resource that can effectively combat
10 climate change in the State.

11 (b) The study shall:

12 (1) evaluate and summarize the current state of nuclear energy in
13 Maryland;

14 (2) identify the benefits of nuclear energy use in Maryland, including the
15 environmental benefits of nuclear energy that may help to combat climate change;

16 (3) identify the potential for a new nuclear power initiative to be deployed
17 within the State using one or more nuclear technologies, including identifying:

18 (i) major barriers to deploying a successful nuclear power initiative;
19 and

20 (ii) a time frame for deploying a successful nuclear power initiative;

21 (4) identify potential locations in the State where State-owned and
22 operated nuclear energy generating stations may be constructed;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(5) assess the practicality of adding nuclear energy to Maryland's
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard; and

3 (6) include recommendations regarding initiatives for the State and the
4 General Assembly to responsibly and efficiently grow the nuclear energy industry in the
5 State, support new emerging nuclear energy technologies that may improve nuclear energy
6 as a viable renewable energy resource, and utilize nuclear energy as a resource to help the
7 State combat climate change.

8 (c) On or before September 30, 2027, the Power Plant Research Program shall
9 report its official findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with §
10 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2026.