



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 1425 – Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein, *et al.*

HEARING DATE: March 4, 2020

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1425 – Climate Solutions Act of 2020 – Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act**, which requires, *inter alia*, the State to achieve net-zero statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2045. The bill also requires each State agency, when conducting long-term planning, developing policy, and drafting regulations, to take into consideration the likely climate impact of the agency's decisions relative to Maryland's GHG emissions reduction goals. The bill also establishes the Climate Justice Working Group and the Climate Jobs Working Group to address issues in disadvantaged communities related to climate change.

This legislation establishes requirements that will address and mitigate the impact of GHG emissions throughout the State. Prince George's County supports this much-needed legislation, as the County has been focused on addressing the problems associated with global warming for the past two decades and has adopted policies and strategies in an effort to address these problems.

In 2008, Prince George's County passed a resolution with the intent to take immediate steps to identify regional climate change impacts, to implement a County plan to prepare for and build resilience to those impacts within the County to achieve the 2050 climate stabilization goal. The Resolution also established a reduction target for the County's geographical GHG emissions of 80% below 2008 levels by 2050.¹ The resolution also directed the County's participation in a regional plan that establishes short-, mid-, and long-term GHG reduction targets, with recommended goals to stop

¹ See CR-24-2008, *A Resolution Concerning U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration*, Apr. 8, 2008, file:///C:/Users/TLHolmes/Downloads/R2008024.pdf.

increasing emissions by 2010, and to achieve a 10% reduction every five years thereafter through 2050.

In 2012, the County government developed the Draft Climate Change Action Plan, as part of County's Sustainable Energy Program Framework to guide the implementation and consequent accounting of the County's greenhouse gas reduction initiatives.² The Action Plan operates with the mission to provide reliable, sustainable, and environmentally sound energy solutions that enhance the quality of life for Prince Georgians, while concomitantly maximizing energy savings. to responds to this call to action and established a framework. And, recently, the County created the Climate Action Commission to further develop a climate action plan to prepare for and build resilience to regional climate impacts and to set and achieve climate stabilization.

This legislation is important for ensuring the future of Maryland and the region. Although each county can step into to do its part, it is important that the State lead by example. This legislation will ensure that possibility. For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1425** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

² Prince George's County Dept. of Environmental Resources and Office of Central Services, *Petroleum Reduction Consumption Plan and Renewable Energy Action Plan*, Feb. 20, 2014, <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3912/Smart-Energy-Communities-Policy-and-Petroleum-Reduction-and-Renewable-Energy-Action-Plan-PDF?bidId=>.