



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

February 4, 2021

The Honorable Dereck Davis
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: House Bill 379 - Public Utilities - Low-Income Housing - Energy Performance Targets
- Letter of Information**

Dear Chairman Davis and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill (HB) 379 - Public Utilities - Low-Income Housing - Energy Performance Targets.

HB 379 would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to procure or provide low-income energy efficiency and conservation programs or services designed to achieve a target annual incremental gross energy savings of at least 1% per year starting in 2022. The legislation would also create the Green and Healthy Task Force, requiring the participation of several state agencies, including the Maryland Department of Health.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 response efforts, MDH unfortunately does not have the fiscal or personnel resources to implement this bill if it is passed. Many of MDH's current personnel have already increased their workload and absorbed additional tasks that are critical to the COVID-19 response.

We recognize and value the importance of this bill and its impact on Marylanders. As such, we respectfully request this bill be held and reintroduced in the 2022 Session. We look forward to working with the bill sponsor(s) and appropriate stakeholders in the interim.

I hope this information is useful. If you have questions or need more information about this subject, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov or Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs Heather Shek at heather.shek@maryland.gov and the same number.

Sincerely,

Webster Ye
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy