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*Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) was created as a not-for-profit corporate instrumentality of state in 2008 through an act of the Maryland General Assembly.*

*MCEC focuses on an economic development mission to advance the adoption of clean energy and energy efficiency products, services and technologies along with the associated jobs and wages for Maryland. MCEC leverages private capital and private sector capabilities; facilitates the commercialization of innovative advanced energy technologies; strives to reduce energy costs for consumers, and drive reductions in greenhouse gas emissions associated with the use of fossil fuels.*

## **SB417**

### **State Employee and Retiree Health and Welfare Benefits Program-Eligibility for Enrollment and Participation (Independent Agency Health Insurance Option Act)**

#### **Hearing Date:**

- 03.29.22 House Appropriations Committee

#### **FAVORABLE SUPPORT REQUESTED**

In order to achieve its statutorily directed mission, operating as a quasi- governmental unit of the State of Maryland, the Maryland Clean Energy Center competes with the marketplace for qualified employees. Access to a quality health care plan is one of the top considerations most applicant candidates ask about during the hiring process. MCEC wants to be able to hire and retain talent in the current competitive hiring environment so, the ability to offer such coverage as to its employees is important.

Heretofore employees of other instrumentalities of the state have been authorized in statute to participate in the health insurance benefit options offered to state employees, but MCEC employees have been among those who cannot directly access this benefit. It is unclear why some quasi-governmental units are eligible while others or not, so MCEC is requesting inclusion along with those who are already authorized in statute for this purpose.

MCEC understands that all costs associated with enrolling its employees in the state health care program must be covered by the Center along with the contributions of its employees. Consequently, other than staff time to process agreements and related documentation, there should be no significant burdensome cost to administer the directive of this legislation.

MCEC requests a FAVORABLE REPORT from this committee for SB417.