

Proposed Amendments  
*Climate Partners Coalition*

Goal: We appreciate that the focus of this legislation is to set more aggressive greenhouse gas reduction targets and require more effective measuring of greenhouse gases as well as additional remediation measures. Our amendments are designed to ensure that the bill better advances equity and justice considerations, ensures that the Climate Justice Corps supports our young adults with good wages and benefits, and also aligns the language in this bill to SB0528.

**Greenhouse gas reduction goals:**

- Page 7, line 5-6 - Overall GHG Goal - 60% by 2032
  - Amendment - 60% by 2030 to line up with Senate (for consistency)

**Climate Catalytic Capital Fund**

- SB528 creates the Climate Catalytic Capital Fund to promote environmental justice and to leverage increased private capital investment in technology development and deployment. This should be added to HB708 to support the work introduced in the bill.
- Amendment: Add language from SB528 starting on page 5, line 12 until page 7 line 27.
  - Note: amendments to this section of the bill include that the Fund may not be used for a project to install new equipment that uses fossil fuels or upgrades the efficiency of existing equipment that uses fossil fuels
  - The Climate Catalytic Capital Fund should have a requirement that at least 40% of funding for greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures go to communities that are “overburdened” (as defined below) **AND AT LEAST 25% OF THE RESIDENTS QUALIFY AS LOW-INCOME**

**Environmental Justice:**

- Pages 4-6, goals for funding and targeted benefits to “disproportionately affected communities”
  - Amendment - replace “disproportionately affected communities” with “overburdened communities” with the following definition to align with other legislative initiatives and be more specific about impact. Add a requirement that 40% of funding for greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures go to “overburdened communities.”
  - **“OVERBURDENED COMMUNITY” IS DEFINED AS “AT A MINIMUM, AN OVERBURDENED COMMUNITY, IS A COMMUNITY THAT INCLUDES ANY CENSUS TRACT FOR WHICH 3 OR MORE OF THE BELOW INDICATORS ARE ABOVE THE 75TH PERCENTILE STATEWIDE:**
    1. PM 2.5
    2. Ozone

3. NATA diesel PM
4. NATA cancer risk
5. NATA respiratory hazard index
6. Traffic proximity
7. Lead paint indicator
8. Superfund proximity (npl sites)
9. Risk management plan facilities proximity
10. Hazardous waste proximity
11. Wastewater discharge indicator
12. Proximity to a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO)
13. % broadband coverage
14. Asthma Emergency Room Discharges
15. Myocardial Infarction Discharges
16. Low Birth Weight Infants
17. Proximity to power plants
18. Proximity to a TRI facility
19. Proximity to a brownfield
20. Proximity to mining operations
21. Proximity to a hazardous waste landfill
22. Proximity to an unincorporated community

AND AT LEAST 25% OF THE RESIDENTS QUALIFY AS LOW-INCOME,  
OR THE AREA IS DESIGNATED AS AN OVERBURDENED COMMUNITY BY THE  
SECRETARY [of MDE]

Petition language for MDE to designate a community as “overburdened”: “IN ORDER  
TO DESIGNATE AN AREA AS AN OVERBURDENED COMMUNITY THROUGH THE  
PETITION PROCESS, THE SECRETARY MUST MAKE FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO  
WHETHER THE AREA MEETS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- (A) THE ANNUAL MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF THAT AREA EXCEEDS  
125 PERCENT OF THE STATEWIDE MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME;
- (B) A MAJORITY OF PERSONS AGE 25 AND OLDER IN THAT AREA HAVE A  
COLLEGE EDUCATION;
- (C) THE NEIGHBORHOOD DOES NOT BEAR AN UNFAIR BURDEN OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION; AND (D) THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAS MORE  
THAN LIMITED ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING OPEN  
SPACES AND WATER RESOURCES, PLAYGROUNDS, AND OTHER  
CONSTRUCTED OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND VENUES. IF ALL

OF THE CRITERIA ARE MET, THE SECRETARY MAY NOT DESIGNATE THE AREA AS AN OVERBURDENED COMMUNITY.”

### **Climate Transition and Clean Energy Hub**

- We have concerns about housing the Climate Transition and Clean Energy Hub in the Maryland Energy Administration due to the Administration’s input on the MCCC report and recommendations. We would like to move the administration of the Climate Transition and Clean Energy Hub to the Maryland Clean Energy Center.

### **Landfills:**

- **Pg 6, line 5-23** Amend the deadline for adoption of regulations January 2023 or June 2023.
- Consider appropriations to MDE’s air department to support the landfill methane work

### **Just Transition Employment Working Group**

- Membership of the working group, on pg. 12, lines 10 strike “one representative of the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra club, selected by the Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club” and replace with “Two representatives of the environmental community”
- On page 14, line 11, strike “counter” and substitute “address”.
- Fenceline communities should be defined (page 14, line 20)

### **Climate Justice Corps**

- Page 20 - align the compensation of Climate Justice Corps participants with other civilian corps to ensure they are paid positions. This will also bring consistency with SB528 as amended.
  - Amendment: On page 20, in line 24, strike “A” and substitute “(1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A”; in lines 25 and 26, strike “(1)” and “(2)”, respectively, and substitute “(I)” and “(II)”, respectively; and after line 28, insert: “(2) STIPENDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND WRAP-AROUND SERVICES SHALL BE PROVIDED TO STIPEND VOLUNTEERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 24, SUBTITLE 11 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.”

### **EmPOWER:**

- Page 25, line 14 - broaden empower to focus on GHG reduction as well as.
  - Amendment: On page 25, line 15, after “programs” add “**AND GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) ABATEMENT PROGRAMS**”. On line 16, after “savings” add “**AND EQUIVALENT GHG ABATEMENT:**”
- Page 25 line 36 - align dates for empower targets with SB528.
  - Amend to
    - 2.25% PER YEAR IN 2024 AND 2025;

- 2.5% IN 2026;
- 2.75% PER YEAR IN 2027 AND THEREAFTER.