



Maryland PIRG

Maryland Public Interest Research Group

SB494 - Maryland Energy Administration – Energy and Water Efficiency Standards – Alterations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Position: Favorable

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Maryland PIRG and Environment Maryland support SB294 which would set energy efficiency standards for 13 appliances and plumbing fixtures in Maryland homes and businesses. Establishing minimum efficiency standards for our appliances will save energy, protect public health, and lower utility bills.

Reducing energy waste is one of Maryland's best weapons in the fight against global warming. Using energy inefficiently only exacerbates those issues as it increases pollution in our air and water, costs Maryland citizens money and threatens our ability to repower our energy systems with 100 percent renewable sources.

One practical solution to energy waste in Maryland is to strengthen minimum energy efficiency standards for our appliances and plumbing fixtures to ensure that they are not needlessly wasting energy and water. SB494 would set standards for 10 products, from air purifiers and showerheads to commercial steam cookers.

In its first year in effect, SB494 would reap the following benefits in Maryland:

- Save 130 gigawatts of electricity which is enough to power 10,000 MD homes.
- Prevent 55 thousand metric tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere which is the equivalent of taking 12,000 cars off of the road.
- Save 4.2 million gallons of water which is enough to provide for 58,000 families each year.

Those annual savings would only continue to go up each consecutive year.

Appliance efficiency standards in Maryland is a commonsense opportunity to reduce energy waste and progress us towards a greener future -- and it's one that we have already started to take advantage of. We have set minimum energy-saving requirements for products from bottle-type water dispensers to commercial hot-food holding cabinets. However, we have not updated or added new appliance standards since 2007.

We urge you to pass this bill to protect our planet, public health and our pocketbooks. It makes no sense for us to allow our appliances and plumbing fixtures to continue to needlessly waste energy. We hope that Maryland will be the next one to take advantage of the cleanest form of energy there is -- the energy we never use in the first place.

We respectfully request a favorable report.

Maryland PIRG is a state based, small donor funded public interest advocacy organization with grassroots members across the state. For fifty years we've stood up to powerful interests whenever they threaten our health and safety, our financial security, or our right to fully participate in our democratic society.

Environment Maryland is a citizen-based environmental advocacy organization. We work to protect clean air, clean water, and open space.