



TO: Members, Education, Health, & Environmental Affairs Committee
FROM: Mary Beth Tung – Director, MEA
SUBJECT: SB 494 – Maryland Energy Administration - Energy and Water Efficiency Standards -
Alterations
DATE: February 15, 2021

MEA POSITION: FWA

Senate Bill 494 continues Maryland's efforts to implement appliance efficiency requirements that reduce energy use, minimize adverse environmental impacts, and ultimately save consumers money. MEA has made every effort to limit the scope of this bill so that it minimizes any potential negative effects on business growth and investment.

If enacted, this bill will result in over 6,000 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electricity savings (1 GWh = 1,000.00 megawatt hours), 200 billion gallons of water savings, and over 2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide savings by 2040.¹

The proposed legislation, as amended, requires the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to adopt specific energy efficiency standards for 11 appliances, and permit MEA to adopt regulations for two additional technologies. These energy- and water-efficiency standards are established based on various sources, including ENERGY STAR®² and WaterSense³ specifications, and standards issued by the U.S. Department of Energy.

States are generally preempted from establishing state energy-efficiency standards for products that are covered by federal standards.⁴ However, states are permitted to establish energy efficiency for products that are *not* covered by the federal appliance standards program. At least 16 states have enacted appliance standards at various times.⁵ These state standards have benefited the residents of those states by reducing energy costs while encouraging an increase in national standards. Most of today's national standards, which cover products ranging from refrigerators to commercial air conditioners to electric motors, started out at the state level.⁶

MEA is offering the attached amendment (*see page 2*) to further incorporate the input it has received from stakeholders. Specifically the amendment corrects one definition and clarifies another.

For these reasons, MEA urges the committee for a **favorable report as amended**.

¹ Calculations based on Appliance Standards Awareness Project calculations

² Started in 1992 as part of the federal Clean Air Act, ENERGY STAR is a voluntary program run by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) identifying and promoting energy-efficient products and buildings with the overall goal of reducing energy consumption, improving energy security and reducing pollution. blog.constellation.com/2016/01/15/what-is-energy-star/

³ WaterSense is a voluntary partnership program sponsored by the EPA. WaterSense-labeled products and services are certified to use at least 20 percent less water, save energy, and perform as well as or better than regular models. epa.gov/watersense/about-watersense

⁴ nrdc.org/experts/lauren-urbanek/states-step-progress-efficiency-standards

⁵ database.aceee.org/state/appliance-standards-summary

⁶ appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/States%20Go%20First.pdf

MEA Recommended Amendment

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 5 in line 1 strike “**THROUGH-TYPE**” and substitute “**TROUGH-TYPE**”.

On page 3 after line 14 insert

“ **(III) “FAUCET” DOES NOT INCLUDE A METERING FAUCET.**”.