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Asian-American & Pacific-Islander Caucus

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**SB 308 - Environment - Statewide Green Business Certification Program**

**What SB 308 Accomplishes:**

- SB 308 establishes a program for Maryland Department of Environment (MDE) to recognize businesses that are operating in a manner that reduces their environmental footprint.
- This bill would require MDE to establish a green business certification program for businesses that are making an active effort to mitigate their environmental footprint.
- SB 308 certifies businesses as “green businesses” using existing infrastructure that does not burden the state with significant fiscal costs.
- SB 308 provides consumers with information on how to identify certified green businesses to enable them to support businesses that share their eco-friendly values.
- SB 308 would maintain MDE’s existing registry of green businesses but will create a more robust supplementary certification program.
- SB 308 would not only incentivize businesses to adopt green practices but would also stimulate business competition and create a network of environmentally friendly businesses.

**Why SB 308 Is Needed:**

- MDE has a green business registry program, however the program does not award certifications.
- The [Maryland Green Business Registry](#) only requires that businesses self identify five green practices that they have implemented and only asks for one measurable result to prove they are operating in a “green” way.
- A more rigorous state-sponsored certification program would further incentivize businesses to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

**Background:**

- SB 308 is identical to HB 61 of 2021, which sought to establish a statewide Green Business Certification program but did not pass out of the Senate largely due to the timing of the Senate crossover hearing.
- HB 61 passed unanimously out of committee and on the House floor on a consent calendar vote of 133-2.
- HB 61 received overwhelming [favorable support](#) in committee and was the result of collaborative discussions with the Maryland Department of Environment.
- [Montgomery](#) and [Prince George's](#) Counties currently have successful local green business certification programs that this legislation is modeled on.