

ACEEE comment letter of MD SB 0494.pdf

Uploaded by: Bryan Howard

Position: FAV

February 15, 2022

Testimony of Bryan Howard
Director, State Policy, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
Before the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

RE: Support of Senate Bill 0494, Maryland Energy Administration-Energy and Water Efficiency Standards – Alterations

Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), I write in support of Senate Bill 0494 (SB 494), An Act concerning Maryland Energy Administration – Energy and Water Efficiency Standards – Alterations. ACEEE is a nonprofit research organization based in Washington, D.C. that conducts research and analysis on energy efficiency. We have been active on energy efficiency issues at the national, state, and local level for over four decades, collecting extensive best-practice information on topics including energy efficiency programs and standards.

SB 494 would set minimum energy and water efficiency standards for 11 common household and commercial appliances such as residential ventilating fans, commercial dishwashers and steam cookers, and showerheads. Most people are unaware that federal efficiency standards are already saving Maryland consumers and businesses around **\$520 a year** in lower utility bills.¹ Adopting state-level standards, proposed in SB 494, could result in utility bill savings of more than **\$200 million** annually by 2030, adding dollars to consumers' pockets and spurring job creation for Maryland's economy.² State appliance standards will not only improve public health and air quality but also reduce emissions that can help the state achieve its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act goals. By 2030, the proposed standards would reduce CO₂ emissions by 125,000 metric tons.³

ACEEE closely tracks efficiency policies in our *State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*. In 2020, Maryland ranked sixth in the *Scorecard*, but was not recognized for state appliance efficiency standards.⁴ This inaction is noteworthy when a growing number of states have moved to codify or update state appliance standards. Indeed, the last year has been one of the most active years in recent history for state appliance standards. Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Nevada, Oregon, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia adopted energy- and water-saving standards for a variety of appliances closely resembling those in SB 494.⁵ Keeping efficiency standards current will help Maryland keep pace as a national leader on energy efficiency while also supporting actions needed to reductions emissions.

We urge you to support SB 494. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ From the 2017 ASAP/ACEEE White Paper, [Energy Saving States of America: How Every State Benefits from National Appliance Standards](#).

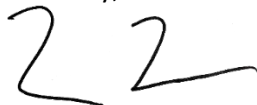
² Appliance Standards Awareness Project, 2022 State Appliance Standards Recommendations Savings estimates for: Maryland available at: <https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/Maryland%20savings%20products%20in%202022%20bill.pdf>

³ IBID

⁴ Berg, W., S. Vaidyanathan, B. Jennings, E. Cooper, C. Perry, M. DiMascio, and J. Singletary. 2020. *The 2020 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*. Washington, DC: ACEEE. aceee.org/research-report/u2011.

⁵ Berg, W., E. Cooper, and M. DiMascio. 2022. *State Energy Efficiency Scorecard: 2021 Progress Report*. Washington, DC: ACEEE. aceee.org/research-report/u2201.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Bryan Howard' written in a cursive, stylized font.

Bryan Howard
Director, State Policy
American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

SB494_IndivisibleHoCoMD_FAV_ElizabethFixsen.pdf

Uploaded by: Elizabeth Fixsen

Position: FAV



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

Testimony before

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 15, 2022

Position: Favorable

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair and members of the committee, my name is Elizabeth Fixsen, and I represent the 750+ members of Indivisible Howard County. Indivisible Howard County is an active member of the Maryland Legislative Coalition (with 30,000+ members). We are providing written testimony today in **support of SB494**, altering some provisions relating to energy efficiency standards for a range of products and applying the standards to an extended list of products and devices made or sold in the state. We thank Senators Pinsky, Lam, King, Lee, Washington, and Guzzone for their sponsorship of this bill.

This bill effectively imposes energy efficiency standards on an extended list of products, including: 1) electric vehicle supply equipment; (2) high color rendering index (CRI) fluorescent lamps; (3) portable electric spas; (4) air purifiers; (5) commercial dishwashers; (6) commercial steam cookers; (7) faucets; (8) residential ventilating fans; (9) showerheads; (10) spray sprinkler bodies; (11) urinals; (12) water closets; and (13) water coolers. The bill also provides for a review as of January 1, 2023 of the standards for the new products and revision of the standards as may be needed.

Energy efficiency standards lower energy consumption and thus help the state of Maryland continue to combat climate change. Expanding the number of products and devices subject to energy and water efficiency standards will ensure that Maryland continues on that path.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

We respectfully urge a favorable report.

Elizabeth Fixsen
Savage, MD 20763

SB494_PIRG_ENVMD_FAV_EFFICIENCY (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Emily Scarr

Position: FAV



Maryland PIRG

Maryland Public Interest Research Group

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

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Position: Favorable

February 15, 2022

Emily Scarr, Maryland PIRG Director, Emily@marylandpirg.org

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.

SB 494_PHTA_Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Jason Davidson

Position: FAV



February 15, 2022

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Cheryl C. Kagan
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support of amendments for Senate Bill 494 — Maryland Energy Administration — Energy and Water Efficiency Standards — Alterations

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Madam Vice-Chair Kagan:

This bill, relating to the establishment of certain energy efficiency standards through the adoption of regulations, provides for energy efficiency requirements for a number of appliances used by the citizens of Maryland. By requiring minimum efficiencies, this bill will save consumers and businesses money on their utility bill at the same time decreasing energy consumption and reducing greenhouse gases.

We strongly support the portable spa provisions in this bill which are consistent with what is used within the industry and in other state and national standards. We fully support the requirement to have Maryland portable spas meet the latest edition of the ANSI/APSP/ICC-14 Standard for Portable Electric Spa Energy Efficiency. This standard has been adopted by over 21 states through either the adoption of the International Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC) or by appliance energy efficiency legislation similar to what Maryland is considering in SB 494.

Currently, the Maryland General Assembly is also considering HB 303 and SB 319 which would adopt the ISPSC, which references this same APSP-14 Standard and therefore align with the intent of this piece of legislation. Additionally, at least 6 additional state legislatures have either filed or will file legislation to adopt the Portable



2111 Eisenhower Ave., Ste 500
Alexandria, VA 22314

Electric Spa Energy Efficiency APSP-14 Standard in 2022. To ensure consistency with what is required within this standard and a higher compliance rate, we strongly support its inclusion into statute via this legislation.

On behalf of the many Maryland pool and spa professionals represented by PHTA, as well as those in neighboring states that do business in Maryland, we respectfully request that you consider moving this important legislation out of your committee.

Sincerely,



Jason Davidson

PHTA, Director of Government Relations

jdavidson@phta.org

About Us

The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance was formed in 2019, combining the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) and the National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF). With the mission to “Celebrate the Water,” PHTA facilitates the expansion of swimming, water safety and related research and outreach activities aimed at introducing more people to swimming, making swimming environments safer and keeping pools open to serve communities.

APSP, now the PHTA, is the world’s oldest and largest association representing swimming pool, hot tub, and spa manufacturers, distributors, manufacturers’ agents, designers, builders, installers, suppliers, retailers, and service professionals. Dedicated to the growth and development of its members’ businesses and to promoting the enjoyment and safety of pools and spas, PHTA offers a range of services, from professional development to advancing key legislation and regulation at the federal and local levels, to consumer outreach and public safety. PHTA is the only industry organization recognized by the American National Standards Institute to develop and promote national standards for pools, hot tubs, and spas. For more information, visit PHTA.org.



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Alexandria, VA 22314

Maryland 2022 SB494 Standards Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Lauren Urbanek

Position: FAV



Chair Senator Pinsky
Vice-Chair Senator Kagan
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland State House, Annapolis MD

February 15, 2022

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council, a leading environmental advocacy organization, and its more than 3 million members and activists, including approximately 9,492 Maryland residents, we offer our support for SB 494, concerning energy and water efficiency standards.

Stronger energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment are a cost-effective and common-sense way to use less energy while maintaining the same – or even better – performance. According to analysis from the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP), the standards in this bill will help save Maryland residents more than \$200 million annually, savings which subsequently will grow to \$347 million in annual savings by 2040. That is money that can be reinvested into the local economy to encourage job creation. Of these 13 standards, eight have no incremental cost, meaning consumers and businesses will begin saving money right away. Of the other five standards under consideration, one pays back for itself in 1.8 years, and four have a payback period of a year or less.

These standards will not only help Maryland consumers and businesses save on their utility bills, but they will also offer public health benefits through reduced emissions of carbon dioxide and other harmful pollutants. Enacting the standards in this bill will lead the state to annually reduce its electricity consumption by an amount equivalent to the electricity used by 15,000 average households. Likewise, these standards will reduce carbon emissions by an amount equivalent to annually taking 27,000 cars off the road for a

NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL

1152 15TH STREET NW | WASHINGTON, DC | 20005 | T 202.289.6868 | F 202.289.1060 | NRDC.ORG

year. Cutting down on carbon will additionally help Maryland to meet or even exceed its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act goals.

However, if new standards are not enacted in 2022 then Maryland consumers and businesses will lose out on hundreds of millions of dollars in savings every year. This bill does not require consumers and businesses to shell out the money to replace the products they're currently using; these standards merely raise the bar for new appliances. In fact, many products currently on the market in these appliance categories already meet the proposed standards and often cost no more than their less-efficient counterparts.

Improved efficiency standards will ensure that the new products we purchase consume less energy and water while still preserving quality and affordability – which is an essential equity concern for low-income consumers and renters. This will also spur innovation from manufacturers to improve less efficient models over the next two years. Consumers and businesses have nothing to lose, and they will benefit immensely from their lower utility bills.

For years, Maryland has been a national leader in the push to improve appliance standards. A dozen states have already taken recent action to continue that push, and Maryland should join them in this effort, or it will be left behind.

We strongly encourage you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Urbanek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lauren Urbanek
Deputy Director, Clean Buildings
Climate and Clean Energy Program

Testimony Appliance Standards Awareness Project Ma

Uploaded by: Marianne DiMascio

Position: FAV

February 14, 2022

Honorable Chair Senator Pinsky
Honorable Vice-Chair Senator Kagan
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Maryland State House, Annapolis MD

RE: SUPPORT for SB494, Energy and Water Efficiency Standards

Dear Chair Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP) regarding SB494. **ASAP supports SB494 as amended.**

ASAP is a coalition project that includes representatives from energy efficiency, consumer and environmental advocacy groups, state government, and utilities. ASAP works to advance cost-effective appliance standards at both the national and state level.

Our organization, along with the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), published *States Go First*: a 2017 report on state appliance standards which forms the basis for many of the product standards in this bill¹. We also update and publish state-by-state savings analyses annually. We would be happy to provide additional information about the products, standards, and analysis as requested.

Appliance standards have been called the best climate and energy policy that you've never heard of because of their strong impact and low profile. Most people are unaware that federal efficiency standards are already saving Maryland consumers and businesses over \$500 a year in lower utility bills.² Adopting the state efficiency standards in SB494 would add to the savings and further reduce energy and water waste and lower consumer utility bills.

FACTS ABOUT STANDARDS IN SB494; The standards included in the bill are:

- **Very cost effective to buyers and users** – Most of the products in the bill have NO incremental cost so consumers start saving right away. For example, a consumer purchasing an air purifier meeting the standards compared to one that does not would start saving right away – about \$30 a year or \$270 over the life of the product.
- **Readily available** – Products and technologies meeting the standards are readily available today from multiple manufacturers.
- **Provide significant energy savings statewide** – the standards make a meaningful contribution to meeting the state's energy, water, and climate needs.

¹ 2017 ASAP/ACEEE report: [States Go First: States Can Save consumers Money, Reduce Energy and Water Waste, and Protect the Environment with New Appliance Standards.](#)

² From the 2017 ASAP/ACEEE White Paper, [Energy Saving States of America: How Every State Benefits from National Appliance Standards.](#)



SB494 WOULD SAVE MONEY, ENERGY, AND WATER AND REDUCE GREENHOUSE GASES

The bill would set minimum energy and water efficiency standards for 13 common household and commercial appliances. If adopted, the standards could save Maryland residents and businesses more than \$200 million on utility bills in 2030. As more and more consumers purchase products compliant with state efficiency standards, annual savings would grow, reaching nearly \$350 million in 2040.³ In 2030, standards would save enough electricity in that one year to power 31,000 households and reduce CO₂ emissions by 125,000 metric tons or the equivalent of taking 27,000 cars off the road for a year.

MARYLAND HAS A HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP ON APPLIANCE STANDARDS

In 2004, and again in 2007 (with Senator Pinsky as sponsor), Maryland was one of the first states after California to adopt efficiency standards for about 15 products. Most of the products in those bills became part of national standards legislation in 2007, leading to massive energy and dollar savings and CO₂ reductions nationwide. We are currently at a critical point where states can have a big impact, particularly with the U.S. Department of Energy playing catch-up on federal standards after years of delays and rollbacks.

OTHER STATES ARE ACTING; MARYLAND MAY BE LEFT BEHIND.

While Maryland has a strong history of acting on appliance standards, it could potentially be left behind as other states act. Nationwide, 12 states have adopted standards including seven states in the northeast and mid-Atlantic: New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington D.C.

STANDARDS ARE A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO ACHIEVE STATE GOALS

Adopting efficiency standards is a low-cost way for Maryland to cut energy and water waste, reduce utility bills and reduce greenhouse gases – the latter helping Maryland meet their Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Act goals.

COMPLIANCE DATE NEARLY TWO YEARS AWAY

If adopted, the standards will go into effect on January 1, 2024. Distributors and retailers will have more than 18 months to sell noncompliant products before the standards take effect.

We would be happy to provide further information, answer questions about appliance standards, or provide technical assistance should such need arise.

Sincerely,

Marianne DiMascio, State Policy Manager
Appliance Standards Awareness Project

³ <https://appliance-standards.org/sites/default/files/Maryland%20savings%20products%20in%202022%20bill.pdf>.

MD SB 494 - PMI kthompson Fav+Ammend 2022-02-14.p

Uploaded by: Kyle Thompson

Position: FWA



February 14, 2022

Maryland Senate Standing Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Chair Paul Pinsky
Miller Senate Office Building
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ehe@mlis.state.md.us

PMI 2022
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Bob Neff
Delta Faucet Co.

Belinda Wise
Kerox, Ltd.

RE: Maryland SB 494 – Energy and Water Efficiency Standards

Dear Senator Pinsky:

Plumbing Manufacturers International (PMI) appreciates this opportunity to provide comments regarding Maryland SB 494 that the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee will be considering.

Regarding the proposed bill, PMI **supports** the proposed efficiency standards for plumbing products which are in line with the flow rates of the EPA WaterSense® program. However, we believe the following additional comments and modifications should be considered before the adoption and passage of this bill into law.

The page and line references are in relationship to the introduced draft of SB 494 dated January 27, 2022. PMI's proposed bill text changes are indicated in **red** below:

- There are several plumbing product definitions in the bill that are not defined in accordance with national standards that are referenced in the Maryland Plumbing Code. These national standards are ASME A112.18.1/CSA B125.1 for plumbing fixture fittings such as faucets and showerheads and ASME A112.19.2/CSA B45.1 for plumbing fixtures such as urinals and water closets. The below definitions should be revised in accordance with the aforementioned national standards and common industry usage for proper application and enforcement as follows:
 - On page 3 (line 23 –24), (9) “Public Lavatory Faucet” means a ***fitting intended to be installed in a non-residential bathroom that is exposed to walk-in traffic faucet designed to be installed in a public bathroom.***
 - On page 4 (lines 7 – 10), (13)(I) “Showerhead” means ***an accessory to a supply fitting for spraying water onto a bather, typically from an overhead position a device or set of devices that 1. Attached to a single water supply fitting; and 2. Used for spraying water for bathing..***
 - On Page 4 (lines 11-13), (II) “Showerhead” includes a showerhead that can be held or fixed in place ***for spraying water onto a bather*** and ***that is*** connected by a flexible hose (also known as a hand-held showerhead).
 - On page 4 (lines 22 - 26), (15) (I) “Urinal” means a plumbing fixture that: ***1. Is designed to receives only liquid body waste from a standing person; and 2. conveys the waste through a trap into a drainage system.***

- On page 5 (lines 16 - 18), (16) (l) “Water Closet” means a plumbing fixture having with a water-containing receptor receptacle that receives designed to dispose of liquid and solid body waste and on actuation conveys the waste through an exposed integral trap into a drainage system.
- On page 11 (lines 7 – 11), regarding the sell through date for product specified in Subsection (B) 1(III) through (B)(1)(XII) of the proposed bill. The existing text is unclear as to the meaning of the phrase “New Product”. From the perspective of a manufacturer “New Product” is that which is newly produced. However, it is also understood that from the perspective of a store customer a “New Product” could be that which is purchased new from the store. To clarify the sell through date, and the meaning of the term “New Product”. And to ensure that retailers and distributors (including local hardware stores) have sufficient time to vend inventoried product without incurring excessive costs or hardship. PMI recommends, revising the text as follows:

(2) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, A NEW PRODUCT MANUFACTURED ON OR AFTER THIS DATE AND SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (B)(1)(III) THROUGH (XIII) OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE SOLD OR OFFERED FOR SALE IN THE STATE UNLESS THE EFFICIENCY OF THE NEW PRODUCT MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE EFFICIENCY STANDARDS SPECIFIED IN THE REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

- On pages 11 and 12 (lines 30 – 34 and 1 – 4), the text as proposed appears to permit the Maryland Energy Administration to increase the efficiency standards for new products identified in this bill without any public input at all. PMI is very concerned with this text. Such changes could have a significant, long-term impact on the health and safety of the public, and should be required to, at a minimum, seek public input. Any amendment to efficiency standards should provide for a public input period of no less than 45 days which is the common practice of other states. PMI recommends including the following section:

(3) In considering new or amended standards, the Administration shall propose new or amended efficiency standards if it determines that any new or increased 6 efficiency standards would:

(i) serve to promote energy conservation in the State;

(ii) be life-cycle cost effective for consumers who purchase and use the new products; and

(iii) be technologically feasible and economically justified.

(4) Proposals for new or increased efficiency standards shall be posted for public input for at least 45 days. The Administration, after reasonable notice other than publication in the Maryland Register, shall hold a public hearing to receive public comment.

~~(4)~~ (5) A new or increased efficiency standard may not become effective less than 1 year after the adoption of that standard.

PMI is an international, U.S.-based trade association representing manufacturers that provide 90% of the plumbing products sold in the United States. PMI members manufacture water-efficient toilets, urinals, faucets, showerheads, and other plumbing products at more than 70 locations across the country for the residential and commercial marketplace. These products are readily available at home improvement stores, hardware stores and showrooms in all 50 states, as well as online. **In Maryland, plumbing**

manufacturers contribute \$796.4 million to the economy, provide more than 5,000 good paying jobs with their wholesale and retail partners, and generate \$280.6 million in wages.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Kyle Thompson
Technical Director
Plumbing Manufacturers International
Office: 847-217-7212
kthompson@safep plumbing.org

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee

PMI Members

*Bradley Corporation *Brasscraft Manufacturing Company *CSA Group *Delta Faucet Company *Dornbracht Americas, Inc. *Duravit USA, Inc.
*Fisher Manufacturing Company *Elkay Manufacturing Company *Fluidmaster, Inc. *Gerber Plumbing Fixtures, LLC *Hansgrohe, Inc.
*Haws Corporation *IAPMO *International Code Council – Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) *KEROX *Kohler Company
*Lavelle Industries, Inc. *LIXIL *Moen Incorporated *NEOPERL, Inc. *NSF International *Pfister
*Reliance Worldwide Corporation *Similor AG *Sloan Valve Company *Speakman Company
*Sprite *Symmons Industries, Inc. *T & S Brass and Bronze Works, Inc. *TOTO USA *UL, LLC
*Uponor *Viega, LLC *Water Pick, Inc. *WCM Industries, Inc.

SB0494 (HB0772) - FWA - Maryland Energy Administra

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: FWA



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.**”.