



**The Maryland Department of the Environment  
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 224***

***Department of the Environment - Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicles -  
Regulations (Clean Trucks Act of 2023)***

**Position:** Support with Amendments  
**Committee:** Environment & Transportation  
**Date:** March 29, 2023  
**From:** Gabrielle Leach

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** Senate Bill 224.

Senate Bill 224 would require the Department to adopt the Advanced Clean Trucks Rule this year. In Maryland and the Northeast region, medium and heavy duty trucks are the second leading contributor to both nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Adopting this regulation is a critical component of our strategy to reduce GHG emissions to avoid severe climate change and meet Maryland's nation-leading climate targets under the Climate Solutions Now Act. Additionally, deploying Zero Emissions trucks to replace diesel engines will provide substantial, direct air quality and health benefits across the State and specifically in communities overburdened by diesel pollution.

MDE supports SB224's requirement that we adopt the Advanced Clean Trucks Rule this year, which would specifically require MDE to promulgate the rule before the end of the year. MDE, however, is already authorized to adopt such rules under Title 2 of the Environment Article. In addition, MDE would like to note its concern with the implementation delay provision included in the legislation.

MDE's authority to exercise its enforcement discretion already allows MDE to consider the feasibility of implementing all regulations MDE adopts, including the Advanced Clean Truck Rule. That is, if a covered vehicle manufacturer is truly unable to meet its obligations because it is simply not feasible to do so, or for other reasons outside of its control, MDE can factor that into its decision to assess a penalty or require corrective actions.

As such, MDE would urge the delay provision be removed from the legislation.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for Senate Bill 224.