



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 147

February 8, 2023

TO: Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 0147 - Environment - Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 147 **with amendments**.

HB 147 would require counties to prepare and submit a plan to address the climate crisis and the effects of climate change and require the Department of the Environment to provide feedback.

The BCA supports the spirit of this bill, but request an amendment stating the counties that already have climate-related plans should be exempt if those plans sufficiently address the requirements outlined by law. Baltimore City already has a planning process, which we report on annually, that meets all of the goals of this bill including:

1. The Disaster Planning Preparedness Project (DP3), a hazard mitigation plan that qualifies the City for FEMA hazard mitigation funds and fulfills the climate crisis plan goal
2. The Climate Action Plan which will be the city's roadmap to carbon neutrality
3. Updates to our GHG inventory which is currently conducted every 3 years, but we hope to assess annually fulfilling the renewable energy and energy efficiency requirements
4. The 2019 Sustainability Plan which addresses the requirement to report on climate change impacts on vulnerable communities.

In some ways the bill may be duplicative of goals outlined in the 2022 Climate Solutions Now Act which had building energy performance standards (BEPS), goals to transition to zero emission vehicles and other sweeping climate goals. Nonetheless, we appreciate the goal to promote better climate planning and feel the bill would be critical to encouraging for proactive climate crisis planning in jurisdictions that have not aimed to address these issues through other planning approaches.

For the above reasons, the BCA requests a **favorable with amendments** report on HB 147.