



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Unfavorable

House Bill 147

Environment – Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 6,400 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

HB 147 requires each county to prepare a climate crisis plan and to submit that plan to the Maryland Department of the Environment for review and feedback on or before June 1, 2024. Each county would be required to finalize their plan on or before January 1, 2025, and then review and update their plan once every 3 years.

The Chamber is concerned with the variability in the county-by-county plans that would result from HB 147. Maryland businesses struggle to contend with the differing laws and regulations that currently exist across Maryland's 24 political subdivisions. Regarding the issue of climate change, it is common practice for businesses to develop one greenhouse gas reduction or sustainability plan to implement across their locations with an eye to the State's objectives and timelines. HB 147 would potentially add 24 different sets of regulations, likely stricter than State requirements, with varying degrees of implementation timelines on top of what they are already complying with.

With Maryland having passed an aggressive new statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan during the 2022 legislative session, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce would urge the committee to not consider layering 24 different local requirements on top of what are already some of the most comprehensive statewide standards in the country.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on **HB 147**.