



MARYLAND
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January 27, 2023

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SUPPORT: HB79 - Housing and Community Development - Whole-Home Repairs Act of 2023

Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

Maryland LCV supports **HB79 - Housing and Community Development - Whole-Home Repairs Act of 2023**, and we thank Delegate Stewart and Senator McKay for their leadership on this issue.

This bill will create a Whole-Home Repairs Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide grants to local agencies for repairs to owner-occupied homes and small landlord rental units to ensure they are free of habitability concerns. This addresses a gap in the way weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades are dispersed. Many times, habitability concerns (e.g., roof repair, water leaks, or other structural issues) must be addressed *before* a property can be weatherized or benefit from energy efficiency or other upgrades like solar panels. This bill will provide assistance for these types of repairs so that homes, and especially low-income households, will be able to access energy efficiency upgrades.

HB 79 will provide a key tool to address the Maryland Commission on Climate Change's [recommendation](#) to electrify all low-income homes in Maryland by 2030.

We would also recommend adding greenhouse gas reduction goals as part of the way this funding is allocated, and understand the sponsor will be offering this language change in the bill.

Maryland LCV urges a favorable report on HB 79.