



**Mission:** *To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy*

**Vision:** *Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities*

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**HB0147 Climate Crisis Plan - Requirement**  
**Hearing Date: 02/08/23**  
**Committee: Environment and Transportation**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) would like to express support for House Bill 147. This bill would require local governments to develop climate crisis plans that ensure their communities have a comprehensive strategy to mitigate the impact of climate change to protect their citizens.

Climate change has been proved to have a significant impact on human health and infrastructure. Maryland is among the states most vulnerable to climate effects including increased storm intensity, poor air quality, food and water supply issues, and heat-related illness.<sup>1</sup> By mandating county governments to create climate crisis plans, we are proactively addressing the health impacts of climate change and ensuring that Maryland communities are prepared for the challenges ahead. This bill brings a much-needed focus to the issue of climate change and provides a framework for local governments to address it.

The climate crisis is a pressing public health threat. The Maryland Public Health Association is, therefore, compelled to support the purpose of HB0147 to ensure that the health of Maryland communities is protected against the unpredictable effects of changing climate.

Thank you for your consideration and we urge a favorable report of HB 147.

*The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.*

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<sup>1</sup> University of Maryland Extension. (2023, January 25). *The effects of climate change in Maryland*. The Effects of Climate Change in Maryland | University of Maryland Extension. Retrieved January 30, 2023, from <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/effects-climate-change-maryland>