



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

House Bill 1272

Department of the Environment - Cap and Invest Program - Establishment

Position: Informational
Committee: Economic Matters
Date: March 7, 2024
From: Leslie Knapp, Jr.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is providing **INFORMATIONAL** testimony on House Bill 1272.

Bill Summary

House Bill 1272 requires MDE to develop an economy-wide cap and invest program that reduces climate-altering emissions in the State. The bill requires that a cap and invest program be designed to be consistent with Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan, achieve necessary climate pollution reductions, and address energy affordability and environmental justice.

Position Rationale

Maryland has successfully applied a version of the cap-and-invest policy model to reduce carbon pollution from power plants for more than 15 years through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Maryland and its partner RGGI states have reduced carbon pollution from power plants faster than the rest of the country while achieving substantial economic benefits and reducing energy costs.

This bill is consistent with Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan and explores how Maryland could expand the model of its current cap and invest program. This bill would require MDE to develop cap and invest program options with input from the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. MDE can meet the requirements of the bill with existing resources.