

BILL: **Senate Bill 258**
Department of General Services - State Buildings & Facilities -
Energy Conservation & Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

COMMITTEE: House Environment and Transportation

DATE: March 20, 2024

POSITION: Support

The Department of General Services (DGS) provides the following comments in support of Senate Bill 258 - Department of General Services - State Buildings & Facilities - Energy Conservation & Greenhouse Gas Emissions. This bill is being offered as a departmental bill.

This Bill incorporates into Statute the goals of Governor Moore's 2023 Executive Order, "Leading by Example in State Government." The bill amends and updates current statute to include energy savings goals and greenhouse gas (GHG) mandates, including:

- an increase in energy savings for State-owned buildings from 10% by 2029 to 20% by 2031;
- a revision of the High-Performance Green Building Program to align it with the State's climate goals;
- directing DGS to expand the energy performance contracting program;
- DGS to provide oversight on progress, conduct an annual audit, maintain data and reporting through our comprehensive utility records management database;
- directing all units of state government to implement projects and initiatives to conserve energy and reduce GHG emissions.

The Bill helps to harmonize State buildings with the State's climate goals and reinforces and expands on requirements in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. Senate Bill 258 focuses solely on State government operations as it looks to reduce the energy use and the carbon footprint of all existing State-owned buildings while providing support for one of our most powerful tools, energy performance contracting. Energy performance contracts are energy projects that are paid for through financial savings and have been used by Maryland State government since the 1990s to deliver \$25 million in annual

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savings and 112,000 tons of abated CO₂. The Bill also addresses the need to update the High-Performance Green Building Program to align it with the State's goal to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2045.

As the support agency delivering expertise, essential services and facilities operations and management to the State, DGS is well-positioned to oversee the transition of State facilities to a more sustainable model as we have seen a 21% reduction in GHG emissions in State government since 2018.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 258. For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at Ellen.Robertson@maryland.gov or 410-260-2908 or Lisa Nissley at Lisa.Nissley1@maryland.gov or 410-260-2922.