



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

House Bill 1273

Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund and Customer-Sited Solar Program - Alterations

Position: Support
Committee: Economic Matters
Date: February 20, 2025
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Affairs

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 1273.

Bill Summary

House Bill 1273 would allow the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to use Strategic Energy Investment Funds (SEIF) for building and transportation electrification grants and loans. Additionally, HB 1273 would change the definition of low-to-moderate-income to mean households with an annual income at or below 150% of the area median income. Finally, the bill modifies MEA's annual report to the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly to include greenhouse gas emissions savings.

Position Rationale

MDE has the authority to oversee the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) in the State. During our conversations with building owners, MDE received feedback that there needs to be additional funding identified to assist covered buildings make upgrades and efficiently achieve net-zero direct greenhouse gas emissions by 2040. HB 1273 would directly help address this concern. Additionally, this funding would help accelerate the electrification of commercial, multi-family, and single-family homes.

Furthermore, HB 1273 would allow low-to-moderate income households to utilize MEA's Customer-Sited Solar Program. Expanding the program to include these households allows more Marylanders to utilize solar energy, which helps reduce both energy costs and household greenhouse gas emissions.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 1273.