



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: HB0061 - School Buildings - Solar Technologies - Parking Lot Solar Canopies

DATE: March 20, 2025

MEA Position: FAVORABLE

House Bill 61 would require that the design development documents for the construction or major renovation of a school include parking lot solar canopies in the evaluation of the use of solar technologies.

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) supports the sponsor's intent of increasing solar installation to achieve Maryland's clean energy goals and recognizes that our public schools can be an additional driver in achieving those goals. Beyond boosting clean energy, school-based solar projects offer unique opportunities to integrate clean energy into the curriculum. Currently, MEA manages its Decarbonizing Public Schools Program, which supports solar for public schools.

Parking lot collar canopies provide multiple benefits, including shielding vehicles from the elements while producing solar energy on an area that would otherwise be unfit for energy production. For these reasons, MEA urges the committee to adopt a **favorable report as amended by the House**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this additional information. For questions, please contact Megan Outten at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.