



**The Maryland Department of the Environment**  
**Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 247***

***Housing and Community Development - Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Issuance of Loans and Achievement of Targets***

**Position:** Support

**Committee:** Education, Energy, and the Environment

**Date:** January 21, 2025

**From:** Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** SB 247.

**Bill Summary**

SB 247 would allow the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to issue loans, as well as expand the eligible sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions savings for programs that serve multifamily buildings and program-eligible customers. In 2024, HB 864 (Ch. 539) became law and required all the major utilities and DHCD to consider GHG emissions reduction as the new central goal under Maryland's EmPOWER energy efficiency programs.

**Position Rationale**

SB 247 would allow DHCD to more effectively align their programmatic efforts with new planning efforts that reduce GHGs, in accordance with Ch. 539. This bill aligns with Maryland's climate goals as established in the Maryland Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) of 2022: to reach a 60% GHG reduction, compared to 2006 levels, by 2031, and achieve net-zero emissions by 2045. One of the most affordable ways to save on energy costs is to invest in energy efficiency, and special attention is warranted to support multifamily buildings that serve low-income residents, in alignment with implementation efforts for MDE's Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) per the CSNA. SB 247 also aligns with the recommendations relating to supporting decarbonization efforts that reach low-income residents made by MDE's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan and the Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 247.

**Contact:** Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations  
Cell: 240-548-3321, Email: [jeremy.baker@maryland.gov](mailto:jeremy.baker@maryland.gov)