

STEPHANIE SMITH
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN

Appropriations Committee

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Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 314
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3486 · 301-858-3486
800-492-7122 Ext. 3486
Stephanie.Smith@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB0004-Restrictions on Use- Solar Collector Systems-Alteration

Hearing: January 24, 2025, 2:30, Environment & Transportation Committee

Chair Marc Korman, Vice Chair Regina T. Boyce, and members of the committee,

As the sponsor of HB0004, I am introducing this bill to clarify what constitutes "unreasonable" restrictions on the installation of solar collector systems.

Under current statute, a prohibition is deemed unreasonable if it causes a significant increase in installation costs or a substantial reduction in energy production. With this bill, I aim to empower community associations to evaluate and either approve or deny specific types of solar collector systems based on clear and measurable standards.

This bill defines a "significant increase" in cost as an increase of more than 5% above the projected installation cost of the initially proposed system. Similarly, a "significant reduction" in energy production is defined as a decrease of more than 10% from the projected energy generation outlined in the proposal.

Additionally, this legislation provides recourse for individuals whose solar collector system installation requests are denied. They will be able to submit documentation from an independent solar panel provider who is properly certified and credentialed. To ensure reliability, these providers must have completed at least 30 solar collector system reviews within the past three years.