



Wes Moore, Governor  
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor  
Josh Kurtz, Secretary  
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

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February 18, 2026

**BILL NUMBER: SENATE BILL 116 - FIRST READER**

**SHORT TITLE: BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS - CONTRACT REVIEW - CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY INFORMATION**

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION**

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The bill requires DNR to supply additional information to the Board of Public Works prior to the Board considering any contract in the contract categories of Architecture and Engineering Services, Construction, Energy Performance, General Miscellaneous, Landlord Lease, and Tenant Lease.

The agency supports efforts to improve compliance with state climate and environmental requirements and standards. While the provisions of this bill may be intended to improve transparency, as written, the bill could slow procurement timelines and would require additional staff to be hired. In particular, the legislation requires providing information on several undefined terms whose agency expectations are unclear. As a result, the Department expects some confusion during implementation and the need to hire additional procurement staff to process the additional required information.

Additionally, the DNR is aware that the Department of General Services is currently working in tandem with the Board of Public Works on a policy framework to address the overarching goal of this bill, along with some more direct and specific guidance to assist agencies.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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DNR is actively working to improve time to completion for the hundreds of capital projects in our capital stack and has been successful in completing more projects more quickly. In particular, the agency has been working, at the behest of the Administration and the General Assembly, to more quickly spend down the funds provided to the agency by the Great Maryland Outdoors Act. As a result, the Agency is looking for every opportunity to improve project timelines.

### **BILL EXPLANATION**

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The bill requires agencies to provide a wide range of information regarding climate and sustainability to the Board of Public Works prior to a Board vote on a contract in the categories of Architecture and Engineering Services, Construction, Energy Performance, General Miscellaneous, Landlord Lease, and Tenant Lease.

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