



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

March 25, 2026

BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 1532 - THIRD READER

SHORT TITLE: CONTINUING THE NEXT GENERATION ENERGY ACT

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

HB 1532 is a comprehensive energy legislation targeted to lower energy bills for Maryland families, provide funding for local clean energy projects, and offer measures to hold companies accountable. Marylanders have seen significant increases in their energy bills in recent years. This legislation identifies grid infrastructure gaps, ratepayer protection, and administrative efficiency, which will help to lower costs for the average ratepayer.

Specifically, the bill requires that the Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) conduct a study to streamline energy development permitting. Specifically, it requires PPRP to identify up to 50 energy sites suitable for new or expanded generating stations or energy storage, and a review of state-level zoning and permitting structures. This study has an effective date of December 31, 2026. While some of the study requirements within the bill overlap with the work being done as a result of EO 01.01.2025.27, the department may require additional resources to meet this deadline.

The amendments introduced by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) would help ensure flexibility in distributing funds from the RGGI Renewable Energy subaccount and make other technical changes, such as aligning certain terms with existing industry definitions. PPRP is supportive of these amendments and believes they help strengthen the legislation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The PSC relies on PPRP for an independent technical, environmental, and socioeconomic analysis for energy related projects. PPRP has seen a nearly 1,000% increase in Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) cases in recent years, which has put a strain on existing resources.

In December of 2025, Governor Moore signed Executive Order 01.01.2025.27, entitled "Building an Affordable and Reliable Energy Future." This EO established the Maryland Energy Advisory Council and the Maryland Energy Site-Readiness Initiative, which requires PPRP, in coordination with the Departments of Commerce, Environment, Planning, and the Maryland Energy Administration, to identify ways that the state could shift from "reactive permitting to proactive deployment." The work being done by this Council and the Initiative will provide essential insight into Maryland's energy market moving forward and overlaps with the study within this bill.

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BILL EXPLANATION

HB 1532 is a comprehensive bill that modifies various aspects of the state's energy regulations, focusing on rate schedules, energy efficiency, and nuclear energy.