



Senate Bill 622

Date: February 26, 2026

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Position: Favorable

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

Senate Bill 622 (SB 622) would require the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) to be used for loans and grants for building electrification and transportation electrification.

SB 622 begins to address a critical funding gap in Maryland's transition to a cleaner and more efficient built environment. The ongoing implementation of the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) places new compliance and cost obligations on owners of covered buildings, particularly large commercial and multifamily properties, which must benchmark, report, and ultimately reduce energy use and carbon emissions over time.

In late 2022 through summer 2023, The Maryland Department of the Environment engaged the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to conduct studies and provide technical assistance on BEPS. According to that study, the estimated total cost of implementing BEPS (2025-2040) includes \$8.8 billion for efficiency measures and \$6.4 billion for electrification. ¹

BEPS imposes substantial planning, measurement, and capital investment costs on building owners. Without dedicated financial resources, many property owners are left unable to pursue the electrification and efficiency measures necessary to meet performance objectives. SB 622 provides necessary clarity and direction to the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) by explicitly requiring SEIF dollars to support electrification investments. This legislative commitment will help ensure that MEA prioritizes resources for building electrification programs, including competitive grants and low-interest loans that reduce the upfront cost barriers for electrification projects.

1

[https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/BEPS/MARYLAND%20REGISTER%2012_15_2023%20Building%20Energy%20Performance%20Standards%2050724%20\(3\).pdf](https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/air/ClimateChange/BEPS/MARYLAND%20REGISTER%2012_15_2023%20Building%20Energy%20Performance%20Standards%2050724%20(3).pdf)

We appreciate that SB 622 recognizes the real costs associated with compliance and takes a step toward aligning funding with statewide climate and energy goals. Although the Chamber continues to have concerns about the design and implementation of BEPS, particularly its compliance timeline and cost implications for affected buildings, we believe this bill represents a pragmatic start in addressing funding challenges. The state's electrification and performance-based policies should be accompanied by robust financial support.

For these reasons, the Chamber respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **SB 622**.