



**State of Maryland**  
**Department of State Police**  
Government Affairs Unit  
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**POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**DATE:** March 25, 2026

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 1532      **POSITION:** Letter of Information

**BILL TITLE:** Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act

**REVIEW AND ANALYSIS**

This legislation seeks to repeal utility regulation, accelerate renewable energy deployment, and modernize permitting processes across Maryland. The regulatory change is likely to increase solar installations and energy infrastructure across the state. These changes could create indirect operational impacts for fire safety agencies, such as increased inspection demands and the need for clear, enforceable fire code standards compatible with automated systems.

Under current law, Public Safety 6-206(a)(1)(i), the State Fire Prevention Commission adopts regulations to protect life and property from the hazards of fire and explosions. Additionally, Public Safety 6-306 (a)(1) and (2) mandates the State Fire Marshal to enforce all laws related to the prevention of fire as well as the regulations adopted by the Commission.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is an integral part of the Maryland Department of State Police (MDSP). The legislation does not directly change the authority of the Office of the State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Prevention Commission. However, it inadvertently integrates the State Fire Prevention Code into automated residential solar permitting systems. This reference appears on pages 15–16 of the bill.

House Bill 1532 creates an indirect regulatory impact by integrating the State Fire Prevention Code into residential solar permitting systems. It is important to note that the State Fire Prevention Code does not apply to one- and two-family dwellings but does apply to multi-family residential buildings and other structures. The reference to the State Fire Prevention Code could create confusion among all stakeholders if the bill's intent is to focus on one- and two-family homes.

While the intent of streamlining permitting and accelerating renewable energy deployment is understood, it would be cleaner, from a fire safety and regulatory perspective, to remove or further clarify the reference to the State Fire Prevention Code in the automated solar permitting provisions.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of State Police urges the Committee to consider this letter of information as it deliberates on House Bill 1532.