



House Bill 970

Date: February 24, 2026

Committee: House Environment & Transportation

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.

House Bill 970 (HB 970) renames Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard as the Clean Energy Portfolio Standard and expands eligible compliance options by recognizing nuclear energy as a clean, zero-emissions resource.

Maryland law already sets ambitious clean energy and emissions reduction targets. HB 970 would make it easier and more practical to meet existing statutory clean energy standards by broadening the range of carbon-free resources that may be used for compliance. Recognizing nuclear energy as part of our clean energy portfolio reflects its role as a reliable, zero-emissions resource that supports grid stability as renewable generation continues to expand.

Importantly, we believe that this approach would lower the overall cost of compliance with Maryland's clean energy requirements. By increasing flexibility in how obligations are met, HB 970 would help mitigate cost pressures on electricity suppliers and, in turn, benefit businesses of all sizes through more manageable and predictable energy rates. Cost containment is especially critical as employers continue to navigate inflationary pressures and rising operating expenses.

By modernizing the framework to focus on clean energy rather than a narrower set of technologies, HB 970 advances Maryland's environmental goals while promoting affordability and reliability for employers and ratepayers alike.

For these reasons, the Chamber respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **HB 970**.