

HOUSE BILL 1104 | DELEGATE FRASER-HIDALGO  
**STREAMLINING ROOFTOP SOLAR**  
MORE CONSUMER CONTROL, LOWER COST INSTALLS



House Bill 1104 will help Marylanders install residential solar and batteries to lower electric bills, reduce peak demand, and reduce pollution.

## WHY ROOFTOP SOLAR AND BATTERY STORAGE

- With rooftop solar, Maryland households can see as much as \$2,300 in savings yearly and \$76,000 in savings over the life of the system.<sup>1</sup>
- Alleviates strain on the electrical grid.
- Enhances resilience against extreme weather and increased demand.
- Adds new in-state energy generation with no additional land-use footprint.
- Reduces homeowners' electricity bills, and enables them to sell back excess electricity.

## THE CHALLENGE

- Faced with high electricity rates, more and more Marylanders are looking into solar, but too often permitting expenses and delays stand in the way.
- Permitting complexities can drive up the sticker price of the typical solar installation by as much as \$7,000,<sup>2</sup> putting solar out of reach for too many.
- The recent removal of federal tax credits means Maryland needs to do more to help residents adopt solar.

<sup>1</sup>Modeling from the Federal Energy Department's Energy Lab at <https://www.nrel.gov/analysis/dgen>

<sup>2</sup><https://seia.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Solar-Soft-Costs-Factsheet-1.pdf>

# Maryland can make installing rooftop solar and batteries easier and less expensive for families helping deliver affordable, local, clean energy by adopting smart reforms including:

## INSTANT PERMITTING

Ensuring permits for code-compliant rooftop solar systems and home batteries are available online and instantly in all communities can lower installation costs and help families take advantage of the federal clean energy tax credits before they phase out entirely in 2027.

## REMOTE INSPECTIONS

Giving families access to remote inspections for solar and batteries ensures that inspections take place in a timely manner, are low cost to consumers, and are performed at a rigorous level of safety.

## ALLOW CERTIFIED INSTALLERS TO “PULL THE METER” STATEWIDE

Allowing certified installers to connect solar and batteries to the electric meter eliminates the need for additional coordination with the local utility, enables solar owners to sell electricity to their utility and makes solar installation cheaper and faster.

## PERMITTING FEE CAPS

High and inconsistent permitting fees raise the cost of going solar and make it difficult for installers to set expectations for homeowners. Permitting fees should have reasonable limits and not exceed the costs of the resources expended by the local permitting office.

## UNIFORM BUILDING CODES

Implementing a statewide uniform code can lower the cost of home solar and batteries in Maryland by simplifying and standardizing the installation process. States like Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Ohio, Rhode Island, Wisconsin, and New Jersey have one statewide uniform code.

**These changes will cut red tape, lower permitting costs, and help make rooftop solar and residential energy storage more accessible for Marylanders, regardless what zip code they live in.**

# SUPPORTERS

