



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

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February 17, 2026

**BILL NUMBER: HOUSE BILL 647**

**SHORT TITLE: POWER PLANT RESEARCH PROGRAM-STUDY ON NUCLEAR ENERGY**

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: LETTER OF INFORMATION**

### **EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION**

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This legislation requires the Department's Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) to conduct a statewide, comprehensive nuclear study and provide recommendations. The study would include summarizing the state of nuclear power in Maryland, identifying barriers to nuclear power, and identifying locations and a timeframe for deploying nuclear power in Maryland.

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. This Council includes industry representatives and will help identify challenges related to energy deployment and reliability. The EO also establishes 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 may have overlap with this proposed study.

Additionally, in 2020, PPRP completed a nuclear study focusing on the status and benefits of nuclear energy in Maryland and the US, as well as emerging nuclear technologies. The proposed legislation calls for a similar expanded analysis.

Due to a nearly 1,000% increase in CPCN cases and because current contractors lack sufficient funds, a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be required to select a contractor for this new study. Meeting the 2027 report deadline will necessitate this external support. PPRP estimates the total cost of the study, including PPRP staff and contractor expenses, to be around \$300,000.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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Currently, about 40% of all Maryland energy is nuclear, and about 65% of Maryland's non-imported energy is nuclear. It is about 80% of all low-carbon energy generation in the State.

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## **BILL EXPLANATION**

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HB 647 requires the Power Plant Research Program to conduct a comprehensive study on the potential role of nuclear energy as a renewable resource to effectively combat climate change in Maryland. This study will evaluate the current status of nuclear energy in the state, its potential environmental benefits in climate change mitigation, and the feasibility of its inclusion in Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.

The bill also requires PPRP to identify potential barriers, timelines, locations, and technologies for new state-owned nuclear power initiatives, culminating in recommendations for the responsible growth of the nuclear industry. The official findings and recommendations are due to the Governor and the General Assembly by September 30, 2027.