



House Bill 79

Date: February 4, 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 79 (HB 79) ensures that the implementation of climate policies under the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) are carried out to the extent economically practicable.

The Climate Solutions Now Act established the most stringent climate goal in the nation – a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions below 2006 levels by 2031 and net-zero by 2045. Since its implementation, Maryland businesses are already facing significant challenges in meeting standards that were set in the CSNA, including the state’s Building Energy Performance Standards and other mandates. The financial and operational burdens associated with compliance threaten not only business viability but also the state’s broader economic stability.

Recently released emissions data highlights the challenge Maryland faces in meeting its statutory climate targets. The Maryland Department of the Environment’s 2023 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory shows the state has achieved a 29% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2006 levels. With only five years remaining to reach a 60% reduction by 2031, this data underscores the growing gap between current progress and the pace of reductions required under current law. HB 79 is necessary to ensure remaining emissions reductions are pursued in a manner that is economically practicable and achievable.

Additionally, in 2009, Maryland enacted the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act (GGRA), mandating a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 2006 levels by 2020 while explicitly mandating that emissions reduction strategies result in a net positive impact on both the economy and jobs. HB 79 aligns with this intent by ensuring that Maryland’s climate policies remain economically feasible while still advancing environmental goals.

HB 79 introduces necessary economic practicability considerations into requirements for buildings emissions reductions, zero-emission vehicle requirements, and compliance measures for businesses and public entities. This balanced approach will help Maryland achieve its ambitious climate objectives without jeopardizing economic growth or job stability.

The Chamber believes that HB 79 provides the necessary balance between environmental progress and economic feasibility, ensuring that Maryland's climate policies are effective, practical, and supportive of a thriving business environment.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report on HB 79**.