



Maryland Hotel
Lodging Association

HB 79 - Climate Solutions Affordability Act of 2026

Environment and Transportation Committee

February 4, 2026

Position: FAVORABLE

*MHLA is the sole statewide organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of Maryland's lodging industry. Our industry is a powerful economic engine. **765 hotels** support more than **115,000 jobs** statewide, generate **\$7.2 billion in wages and salaries**, contribute **\$2.4 billion in state and local tax revenue**, and drive **\$10.6 billion in guest spending** that strengthens communities across Maryland.*

HB 79 seeks to amend and implement provisions of the Climate Solutions Now Act by clarifying that compliance requirements should be carried out *to the extent economically practicable*. MHLA strongly supports this important clarification.

MHLA members are committed to being part of Maryland's climate solution. Our hotels routinely invest in energy efficiency, sustainability upgrades, and operational improvements that reduce emissions—particularly when those investments are supported by a clear business case and a proven return on investment. We support reasonable, achievable policies that allow our industry to continue contributing to the state's ambitious climate goals.

Most Maryland hotels qualify as “covered buildings” under the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS). However, the costs and logistical challenges of compliance - or penalties for non-compliance - can be substantial and, in many cases, are driven by factors outside a hotel's control. These realities must be thoughtfully considered to avoid unintended economic consequences. A balanced, economically practicable approach is essential to ensure both environmental progress and long-term economic stability.

MHLA appreciates the intent of this legislation and thanks Delegate Chisholm for introducing HB 79. This bill represents a pragmatic step toward aligning Maryland's climate objectives with economic feasibility.

For these reasons, the Maryland Hotel Lodging Association respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 79.

For more information, please contact:

Amy Rohrer, President & CEO
Maryland Hotel Lodging Association
amy@MDLodging.org