



**HB0345 - SUPPORT**  
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**HB0345**  
**Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits**  
**(Affordable Solar Act)**

Environment and Transportation  
February 6th, 2025

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Third Act Maryland, I urge the committee to report favorably on HB0345, Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act). Third Act Maryland is a group of older adults bringing our collective power to climate justice and democracy efforts to make the planet more livable and to protect voting rights. State and local actions to expedite solar power generation are among the largest and least expensive opportunities to reduce the emissions driving climate change. HB0345 is such an action.

Maryland households continue to face electricity bill increases,<sup>1</sup> and the state is falling short of its targets for renewable energy use.<sup>2</sup> HB0345 would help to address both of these urgent problems by increasing Maryland's generation of solar power, now the fastest and most cost-effective way to build new electricity generation. HB0345 would:

- 1) Update the Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) program to accelerate solar power uptake and promote diverse solar installation types (utility scale solar, community solar, and rooftop solar) while minimizing cost to utility customers of reaching the state's renewable power goals.
- 2) Ensure that electricity suppliers' Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs) to the Public Service Commission for shortfalls in their provision of renewable energy are

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland Matters, "Energy bills likely to tick up again in 2026 after electricity auction clears at maximum price," (July 2025) <https://marylandmatters.org/2025/07/23/energy-bills-likely-to-tick-up-again-in-2026-after-electricity-auction-clears-at-maximum-price/>.

<sup>2</sup> Maryland Energy Administration, "Reaching 100 Percent Net Carbon-Free Electricity in Maryland," (January 2025) <https://energy.maryland.gov/Reports/MEA%20100%20Clean%20Electricity%20Report.pdf>.

used to reach Maryland's solar adoption targets. The current practice of diverting ACP revenues to other uses not only undermines Maryland's efforts to reach its ambitious clean power goals but also unfairly burdens the state's less affluent households.

- 3) Allow more Maryland residents to generate solar power at home. The bill would remove barriers to compact, plug-in solar devices ("balcony solar"), enabling renters and others for whom rooftop systems may not be practical to generate affordable, clean power for home use.

Hence HB0345 advances solutions to high-priority consumer and climate challenges for the 2026 Maryland legislative session. It also will contribute to the democratization of energy generation and use in our state and provide a bulwark against the encroachment of the federal government on our access to affordable, clean, locally generated power.

Third Act Maryland urges the committee to advance HB0345 to the Assembly. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.