



## Support: House Bill 673

### Consumer Goods – Restrictions Based on Energy Source – Prohibition (Energy Equality Act of 2026)

House Bill 673 restores a fundamental principle: government should not restrict lawful products solely because of the energy source they use.

The bill prohibits State or local governments from restricting the sale, purchase, or use of a consumer good based only on whether it is powered by electricity, gasoline, natural gas, propane, or another lawful fuel source.

“Consumer good” is defined broadly to include motor vehicles, appliances, and other tangible products used by Maryland families and small businesses.

This legislation is about fairness, uniformity, and consumer choice.

HB 673 also repeals Maryland’s Low Emissions Vehicle (LEV) program, which currently requires the State to adopt California’s Clean Car Program standards. Under existing law, Maryland must continuously update its regulations to remain identical to California’s evolving rules. That effectively places Maryland’s vehicle policy in the hands of regulators in another state.

Importantly, just last year the Governor had to pause implementation of the latest California Advanced Clean Cars II standards because the mandates proved too difficult to achieve under real-world conditions. That pause underscores a simple reality: Maryland should not bind itself to aggressive regulatory schemes designed for California’s infrastructure, market conditions, and geography.

Additionally, under current law, the Motor Vehicle Administration must refuse to issue a title or register a vehicle that does not comply with the LEV program. HB 673 removes this restriction, ensuring Marylanders can purchase and register vehicles that meet federal standards without being subject to California-specific mandates.

The bill also prevents local governments from enacting bans on consumer goods solely because of their energy source. Without statewide uniformity, Maryland risks a patchwork of local prohibitions that create confusion for consumers and compliance burdens for small businesses.

This legislation does not prohibit electric vehicles or renewable energy. It does not eliminate environmental protections under federal law. It simply restores neutrality and ensures that innovation competes in the marketplace rather than being forced through government mandate.

Marylanders deserve affordable options, reliable equipment, and the freedom to choose what works best for their families and businesses.

For these reasons, the State Freedom Caucus Network respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 673.