



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**HB 345**

**DATE: February 10, 2026**

**SPONSOR: Delegate Charkoudian**

**ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation Committee**

**CONTACT PERSON: Bryan Howard (bryan.howard@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)**

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### **Public Utilities - Solar Energy Generating Systems and Solar Renewable Energy Credits (Affordable Solar Act)**

This bill authorizes the use of portable solar energy generating systems and allocates a portion of alternative compliance fees associated with Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard to be used by the Public Service Commission (PSC) to support new solar projects in Maryland.

Utility bills in Maryland continue to rise and have real impacts on families across the state. For example, the Maryland Office of People's Counsel reports that the recent PJM capacity auction will add an additional \$2.50 monthly increase for residential customers in the Pepco service territory, on top of an approximately \$14 monthly increase resulting from the last capacity auction. These increases strain the budgets of County residents and are not sustainable. Additional power generation is needed to help control these costs, but recent federal actions have eliminated clean energy tax credits, undercutting Maryland's solar industry.

The Affordable Solar Act provides innovative solutions to get more solar on the grid to help address electricity demands and reduce energy bills. The bill empowers residential customers to use portable solar systems if the equipment meets relevant safety standards and limits energy into the electrical system. Other states already allow portable solar under similar conditions and research suggests that systems like those allowed in the bill would not negatively impact the electrical distribution system.

The bill also creates a process managed by the PSC to catalyze new renewable energy projects through an auction-style approach that would deploy incentives in a cost-efficient manner focused on in-state projects. The County supports using alternative compliance fees for the intended purpose of funding renewable energy projects. Direct funding to expand solar generation will help meet State climate goals and growing demands for electricity.

We respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 345.