



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

HB 673 - Consumer Goods - Restrictions Based on Energy Source - Prohibition (Energy Equality Act of 2026)

Position: Oppose
Committee: Environment and Transportation
Date: February 18, 2026
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Government Relations Director

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **OPPOSES** HB 673.

Bill Summary

House Bill 673 would establish restrictions on state and local governments' ability to limit consumer goods based on their energy source. The definition of consumer goods under the bill includes items primarily used for personal, household, family, or agricultural purposes, which applies to motor vehicles, appliances, and other tangible products. House Bill 673 would prohibit any local or state government from restricting the sale, purchase, or use of consumer goods based on the energy source. Energy source is defined to include electricity, gasoline, natural gas, propane, and other federally authorized fuel sources.

Position Rationale

HB 673 would impede MDE's mission of safeguarding public health and the environment for the welfare of all Maryland residents. The legislation would impose a significant administrative burden across agencies involved with environmental initiatives and substantially escalate litigation risk and resource demands on MDE.

MDE regulates pollution sources based on their pollution. Those sources' pollution depends heavily on the type of energy they use. The bill would enable opponents to challenge pollution regulations as being predicated on energy sources, potentially precluding MDE from regulating dangerous pollution sources under its authority. Additionally, the transition from inefficient fossil-fueled consumer goods to high-efficiency, non-fossil fuel alternatives has the potential to yield significant co-benefits, including savings of several thousand dollars in annual household energy costs for typical Maryland households.

Furthermore, HB 673 would repeal the authority for Maryland to adopt Advanced Clean Cars and Advanced Clean Trucks standards. As states adopting the California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards under Section 177 of the federal Clean Air Act have no alternative to adopting those California standards, this bill would eliminate Maryland's ability to control pollution from the largest source sector: on-road mobile sources. This repeal would adversely impact the public health of our communities and eliminate crucial air quality benefits (PM, VOC and NOx) necessary to meet or maintain future national air quality standards. The inability to secure these benefits could trigger federal sanctions, including a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP), emission offsets, and the potential loss of millions of dollars in federal transportation funding.

Accordingly, MDE asks for an **UNFAVORABLE** report for **HB 673**.

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