



# NATIONAL AQUARIUM®

Date: March 17, 2026

Bill: HB620 - Commemorative Months - Maryland Climate Education Month

Position: Support

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Chair Wells and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report for HB620 - Commemorative Months - Maryland Climate Education Month. This legislation would designate April as Climate Education Month in Maryland, inspiring people across the state to participate in climate educational activities and take action towards Maryland's climate goals.

Combatting climate change is one of the National Aquarium's three overarching conservation goals. We do this through a holistic approach, which includes climate mitigation, adaptation, education, and communication across our campuses. The National Aquarium is committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2035. We also work with communities and partners throughout the state to implement nature-based solutions that support climate resilience and have decades of experience translating complex climate and ocean science to over 1.2 million guests and 100,000 Maryland students each year. We recognize that not everyone experiences climate impacts to the same degree, and that future climate solutions in this state and beyond should be crafted through a lens of equity and environmental justice.

Research shows that despite increased public awareness and understanding of climate change and its impacts, comparatively few people have discussions about the existential challenge facing us or the variety of solutions currently or potentially available<sup>1</sup>. In 2024, roughly 63% of adults in the United States were somewhat or very worried about global warming, yet only 36% reported discussing it. Even fewer (28%) reported hearing about global warming in the media at least once per week<sup>2</sup>. The conversations National Aquarium has with students, guests, and the public are designed not merely to educate but to empower people to take meaningful actions to address climate change.

Maryland has enacted some of the most ambitious climate goals in the country. Achieving these goals means that Marylanders should be aware of and engage in discussions about climate solutions to address the impacts we experience now and expect to further intensify. Dedicating time to build climate awareness and encourage climate conversations and actions in classrooms and communities throughout the state will help increase resilience and benefit future generations of Marylanders.

**We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on HB620.**

Contact:

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<sup>1</sup> Leiserowitz, A. et al. 2025. Climate Change in the American Mind: Beliefs & Attitudes, Fall 2025. Available:

<https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/climate-change-in-the-american-mind-beliefs-attitudes-fall-2025/>

<sup>2</sup> [Yale Climate Opinion Maps 2024 - Yale Program on Climate Change Communication](#)