



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

House Bill 620 - Commemorative Months – Maryland Climate Education Month

Position: Support
Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections
Date: March 17, 2026
From: Jeremy D. Baker, Director of Government Relations

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** HB 620.

Bill Summary

House Bill 620 would designate April as Maryland Climate Education Month. This legislation would require the Governor to annually issue a proclamation encouraging Maryland residents to participate in educational activities that promote climate change awareness and support the State's climate goals.

Position Rationale

House Bill 620 implements a recommendation made by the Maryland Commission on Climate Change in 2025. This legislation would promote widespread awareness of climate change impacts and would encourage residents to take meaningful action toward sustainability. Education is a powerful tool for empowering individuals, schools, businesses, and organizations to contribute to the State's climate goals. This initiative would strengthen partnerships with research institutions and advocacy groups, foster a culture of environmental responsibility, and help protect Maryland's unique ecosystems and vulnerable coastal areas for future generations.

Accordingly, MDE asks for a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 620.