

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF HOUSE BILL 1237

HOUSE BILL 1237

P2, C5

2lr2465

By: **Delegate Morhaim**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2012

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Maryland Energy Administration - Study on the Use of Solar Panels on~~
3 School Buildings - Solar Technology - Design Development Documents

4 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to establish a~~
5 ~~workgroup to study the feasibility of creating a program to use county and State~~
6 ~~school buildings for the collection of solar energy; authorizing the~~
7 ~~Administration to include certain persons in the workgroup in its discretion;~~
8 ~~requiring the workgroup to consider certain cost savings, examine certain laws~~
9 ~~that would need to be amended to facilitate a program and to streamline~~
10 ~~procedures under a program, consider the desirability of establishing a certain~~
11 ~~pilot program, and make certain surveys to determine certain levels of interest~~
12 ~~in participating in a program; requiring the workgroup to submit a report of its~~
13 ~~findings and recommendations by a certain date; requiring the Board of Public Works to adopt~~
certain regulations requiring certain design development documents for the construction of new school
buildings or the improvement of existing buildings to include an evaluation relating to the use of solar
technology; requiring the Interagency Committee on School Construction to submit a certain report that
includes certain information to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date each
year; providing for the termination
14 ~~of this Act; and generally relating to a study on the use of solar panels on school~~
15 buildings and solar technology.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article - Education
Section 5-301.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

16 Preamble

17 WHEREAS, State and county school buildings offer large flat surfaces that are
18 ideal for the installation of solar panels; and

19 WHEREAS, School buildings are also usually a great distance away from tall
20 buildings and trees, making them ideally exposed to sunlight; and

21 WHEREAS, In these times of tight school board budgets, the generation of
22 electricity could provide local school boards with an additional funding source or
23 cost-saving measure; now, therefore,

24 ~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF~~
25 ~~MARYLAND, That:~~

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1 ~~(a) The Maryland Energy Administration shall establish a workgroup to~~
 2 ~~study the feasibility of creating a streamlined program to use county and State school~~
 3 ~~buildings for the collection of solar energy.~~

4 ~~(b) The Administration may include in the workgroup in its discretion:~~

5 ~~(1) members of the General Assembly;~~

6 ~~(2) representatives from the Department of General Services, the~~
 7 ~~State Board of Education, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission;~~

8 ~~(3) interested county officials, including school board members and~~
 9 ~~staff;~~

10 ~~(4) representatives of the solar energy industry;~~

11 ~~(5) representatives of the Green Building Council; and~~

12 ~~(6) any other person in the discretion of the Administration.~~

13 ~~(c) The workgroup shall:~~

14 ~~(1) consider the savings in energy costs that could accrue for a school~~
 15 ~~building if solar panels are installed on the roof;~~

16 ~~(2) consider potential savings in the costs of installing solar panels,~~
 17 ~~including through contracts to provide excess energy to private energy companies;~~

18 ~~(3) examine any State or local law, including procurement laws, that~~
 19 ~~would need to be amended to facilitate a program and to streamline procedures under~~
 20 ~~a program;~~

21 ~~(4) consider the desirability of establishing a pilot program to use~~
 22 ~~county and State school buildings for the collection of solar energy;~~

23 ~~(5) survey local school boards, solar panel manufacturers and~~
 24 ~~installers, and private energy companies to determine the level of interest in~~
 25 ~~participating in a program; and~~

26 ~~(6) by December 31, 2012, submit a report of its findings and~~
 27 ~~recommendations, including recommended legislation for the 2013 regular session, to~~
 28 ~~the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the~~
 29 ~~Senate Finance Committee, the House Economic Matters Committee, and the House~~
 30 ~~Health and Government Operations Committee.~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Education

5-301.1.

(a) (1) There is a solar energy pilot program to promote the use of solar energy
systems to generate electricity in public school buildings in the State.

(2) The pilot program shall be implemented and administered by the
Interagency Committee on School Construction and shall operate as provided in this
section.

(b) The Interagency Committee shall:

(1) Encourage all local boards in the State to study, design, and construct or
renovate school buildings that are energy efficient and use solar energy systems to
generate electricity to meet some of the school building's electrical energy needs,
electrical energy demand, or a combination of the electrical energy needs and electrical

energy demand:

(2) Provide grants out of State funds dedicated for this program to local boards to assist in implementing the use of solar energy systems at existing public schools or in new or renovated school building projects; and

(3) Develop a procedure for a local board to apply for a grant in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

(c) (1) A local board may apply to the Interagency Committee for a grant to cover 90% of the cost to purchase and install a solar energy system to generate a portion of the school building's electrical energy needs or electrical energy demand.

(2) A local board that receives a grant under this subsection shall pay:

(i) 10% of the cost to purchase and install the solar energy system; and

(ii) All architectural or engineering fees for the design and supervision of the installation of the solar energy system.

(3) The Interagency Committee may award a grant under this section for a solar energy system project with the approval of the Board of Public Works.

(d) Local school systems are encouraged to seek private funding to implement the pilot program.

(e) The total savings of electrical energy needs and electrical energy demand costs that result from the installation and use of solar energy systems under this section shall remain with the local school system.

(f) (1) The Interagency Committee and the Maryland Energy Administration shall cooperate with, assist, provide technical assistance to, and advise school systems to identify appropriate existing public school buildings and public school construction projects that would benefit from the installation of solar energy systems.

(2) The Interagency Committee shall adopt procedures necessary to implement this section.

(G) THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE DESIGN DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS OR THE IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING BUILDINGS SUBMITTED BY A COUNTY BOARD TO THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE:

(1) AN EVALUATION OF THE USE OF SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING PHOTOVOLTAIC OR SOLAR WATER HEATING, BASED ON LIFE CYCLE COSTS; AND

(2) IF AN EVALUATION DETERMINES THAT SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATION PROJECT, A REPORT THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE USE OF THIS TECHNOLOGY IS NOT APPROPRIATE.

(H) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 OF EACH YEAR, THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT ON THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION PROJECTS IN EACH JURISDICTION THAT USE SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 June 1, 2012. ~~It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,~~

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1 ~~2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be~~
2 ~~abrogated and of no further force and effect.~~