

## 2008 Legislative Environmental Bills

Environmental legislation received a lot of attention in the 2008 Maryland General Assembly. Energy efficiency and alternative fuel use formed the largest category of bills. Legislation that will have the biggest impact on protecting the Chesapeake Bay is the Critical Area Act. Check out the summary of 10 important bills that were passed into legislation and how your representatives voted.

To get more information about any legislation, go to <http://mlis.state.md.us> and type in the bill number, for example HB377 on the main page of the website. SB means senate bill and HB stands for house bill. Most bills have both a House and Senate version. However, there are some exceptions. You may also contact the Department of Legislative Services, [Library and Information Services](#) at 1-410-946-5400 (Baltimore) or contact your representative. To locate your state representative, find your district on <http://mdelect.net/> or call your local state board of elections:

Baltimore County: 410-887-5700

Baltimore City-396-5550

Harford County 410-638-3565

### Energy Legislation

- HB377/SB207      **Solar and Geothermal Tax Incentive and Grant Program** – expands the grant program to finance the installation of household renewable energy projects, such as solar water heating systems. For example, solar water heating grant was increased from a maximum of \$2000 or 20% whichever is less to \$3000 or 30% of the cost, whichever is less.
- HB374/SB205      **Empower Maryland** – establishes a goal to reduce per capita energy use 15% by 2015. Utilities and the Maryland Energy Administration will offer energy efficiency incentives to consumers. Projected energy savings by 2020 is 4.1 billion dollars.
- HB368/SB268      **MD Strategic Energy Investment Program** – funds energy efficiency programs for the low income people, offsets utility rates from the sale of carbon allowances under the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that Maryland joined in 2006. The RGGI is a market based cap and trade program to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in the Northeast by adopting energy efficiency policies that promote renewable resources and lower emission fuels, and energy efficiency improvements. Other partners include Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

HB376/SB208      **High Performance Building Act** – requires high energy efficiency standards for new buildings and renovations of old buildings paid for by state funds.

HB375/SB209      **Renewable Portfolio Standard Percentage Requirements** – doubles the the utilities renewable energy standard to 20 percent by 2022. Utilities will be required to generate 20% of its energy from renewable resources.

### **Water Quality**

HB1253/SB844      **Maryland’s Critical Area Act (CAA)** – strengthens the enforcement of building restrictions on land that is within 1000 feet of the Chesapeake Bay’s tidal waters. This legislation provides the Critical Area Commission with the tools it needs to limit development in these natural buffer areas to prevent sediment and contaminated runoff.

### **Land Preservation**

SB259      **Program Open Space** – increases the percentage of local Program Open Space funds from 75% to 100% for development of parks.

SB662      **Agricultural land transfer tax** – addition of a surcharge to preserve farmland by helping farmers purchase land and promote the use of sustainable farm practices.

### **Smart Growth**

HB373/SB204      **Transit Oriented Development** – promotes the creation of compact, walkable communities centered around high quality train systems.

HB366/SB206      **Base Realignment Closure** – gives local governments tax benefit incentives to build housing for relocated persons in developed areas. This legislation will help preserve undeveloped land.

## Voting Records of Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Harford County Representative on 10 Important Environmental Bills.

+ vote is favorable for the environment

- vote is unfavorable for the environment

O means did not vote (includes excused and non-excused absences)

\* indicates that 100% of the delegates or senators voted in favor of the bill.

% is the percentage of environmentally favorable votes out of the 10 possible votes.

Senator	Localit y	District	SB 205	SB 268	SB 207	SB 208	SB 209	SB 844	SB 259*	SB 662	SB 204	SB 206*
<b>Larry Haines</b> 50%	BA	5	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
<b>Norman Stone, Jr</b> 90%	BA	6	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Andrew Harris</b> 30%	BA HA	7	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+
<b>Katherine Klausmeier</b> 90%	BA	8	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	O
<b>Delores Goodwin Kelley</b> 90%	BA	10	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	O	+
<b>Robert (Bobby) Zirkin</b> 100%	BA	11	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>James Brochin</b> 100%	BA	12	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Nancy Jacobs</b> 30%	HA	34	-	-	+	+	-	-	O	-	-	+
<b>Barry Glassman</b> 60%	HA	35	O	-	+	+	O	+	+	-	+	+
<b>Catherine Pugh</b> 100%	BC	40	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Lisa A. Gladden</b> 100%	BC	41	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Joan Carter Conway</b> 100%	BC	43	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Verna Jones</b> 100%	BC	44	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Nathaniel McFadden</b> 100%	BC	45	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<b>George W. Della, Jr</b> 60%	BC	45	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+







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<b>Barry Glassman</b> 60%	HA	35	O	-	+	+	O	+	+	-	+	+
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