

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**

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; providing for the termination
14 of this Act; and generally relating to a study on the use of solar panels on school
15 buildings.

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:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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.

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,

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