

2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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Built Environment & Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

February 18, 2021



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

2021 COG Legislative Priorities

Climate and Energy Innovation & Air Quality Protection

- Support Deployment of Clean Energy Innovation and Technology
- Enhance Sustainable Secure Energy Access for All
- Support Policies to Meet the Region's Climate Goals
- Expand Clean Energy Finance
- Support Policies that Preserve and Protect Regional Air Quality and Public Health
- Enhance Incentives and Financing Mechanisms for Green Infrastructure and Natural Resource Protection
- Support the Transportation Climate Initiative in Designing and Taking Actions to Reduce Greenhouse gases

CEEPC Legislative Subcommittee

- CEEPC's Legislative Subcommittee is a small group of local government CEEPC members who periodically meet with staff to review legislative initiatives in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia.
- COG staff track various bills during the legislative session that fall within COG's legislative priorities.
- A series of ad hoc calls are held to determine specific bills to send comment letters on.
- The subcommittee primarily runs from January – April.
- The last subcommittee meeting was held on Friday, February 19, 2021.

Legislature Timeline

- Virginia
 - Session started January 13, 2021. Crossover was February 5, 2021. Adjourned February 8, 2021. A special session began February 10, 2021 until March 1, 2021.
- Maryland
 - Session started January 13, 2021. 90-day session, crossover is March 22, 2021.
- D.C.
 - New 2-year session 2021-22.

Virginia

- CEEPC's Legislative Subcommittee sent 4 comment letters in support of clean energy and building standards. All bills have made it passed crossover.
 - HB 1919 (Kory) – Authorizes a locality to establish a green bank to promote and finance clean energy investments. **Passed House and Senate.**
 - HB 2048 (Bourne) – Authorizes customers to buy renewable energy from any supplier. Third party suppliers of renewable energy are required to offer a discounted renewable energy product to low-income customers.
 - HB 1859 (Guy) – Authorizes Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) loans to be extended to projects completed in the previous 2 years, amends last years legislation.
 - HB 2227 (Kory) – Directs the Board of Housing and Community Development to considering adopting amendments to the Uniform Statewide Building Code to address changes in the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) related to energy efficiency and conservation.

Virginia

- 1 comment letter in support of Electrification. All bills have passed their relevant chamber.
 - HB 1965 (Bagby) – Clean Car Standard bill.
 - HB 1979 (Reid) – Creates a rebate program for the purchase or lease of new and used electric vehicles.
 - HB 2118 (Keam) – Electric Vehicle Grant Fund and Program, assists school boards in replacing diesel buses with electric, installing charging infrastructure.
 - SB 1223 (Boysko) - Adds a requirement to the Virginia Energy Plan to include an analysis of electric vehicle charging infrastructure to support the 2045 net-zero carbon target in the transportation sector.

Maryland

- CEEPC's Legislative Subcommittee will send 4 comment letters of support in the areas of clean energy, energy efficiency, and renewable portfolio standards.
 - SB 414 (Pinsky & All) & HB 583 (Stein) – Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021. Requires the State to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2030.
 - SB 77 (Griffith) & HB 70 (Rogers) – Gives preference to applications for funding for a net-zero home from the Energy-Efficient Homes Construction Fund.
 - HB 561 (Davis) – Expands the types of energy sources that qualify as Tier 1 renewable sources.
 - HB 61 (Shetty) – Statewide Green Business Certification Program.

Maryland

- Further legislation currently under review include community choice aggregation and net energy metering.
 - HB 768 (Montgomery County Delegation) – Montgomery County - Community Choice Energy - Pilot Program MC 17 – 21.
 - HB 584 (Watson) & SB 508 (Peters) Public Utilities – Net Energy Metering.
 - HB 569 (Clippinger) & SB 407 (Kramer) Electricity – Net Energy Metering – Limit.

District of Columbia

- B24-0018 - Green Food Purchasing Amendment Act of 2021 (Cheh, Gray, Allen, Nadeau, & Pinto).
 - Directs the Department of Energy & Environment (DOEE) to adopt a methodology for estimating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that occur through the life cycle of foods and beverages.
 - Agencies would be required to quantify emissions from their food purchases and take steps to reduce these emissions by 25% by 2030.

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