

May 20, 2010 Bill Signing Energy Legislation

The O'Malley-Brown Administration's new energy legislation impacts Maryland as follows:

HB 469: Motor Vehicle Excise Tax - Tax Credit For Electric Vehicles

This Administration bill creates a tax credit for the purchase of qualified plug-in electric vehicles equal to 100% of the State vehicle excise tax imposed, not to exceed \$2,000. The bill requires a transfer of \$279,000 from the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund to the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) in fiscal 2011, \$939,600 in fiscal 2012, and \$1,287,000 in fiscal 2013. The tax credit applies to electric vehicles purchased from October 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013.

SB 602/HB674: High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes - Use by Plug-In Vehicles

This bill authorizes a "plug-in electric vehicle" affixed with a State permit designating it as such to use high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes. There are HOV lanes along two federal highways in the State: one on I-270 in Montgomery County; and one on U.S. Route 50 in Prince George's County. The bill will sunset on October 1, 2013.

HB 464: Maryland Clean Energy Incentive Act of 2010

This Administration bill extends the termination date of the clean energy incentive tax credit to December 31, 2015. The bill also extends to January 1, 2016, the date by which a facility must begin producing qualified energy in order to claim the credit; and prohibits the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) from issuing an initial credit certificate for less than \$1,000. The bill also makes the clean energy incentive tax credit refundable.

SB 277: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Solar Energy

This Administration bill increases the percentage requirements of the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (RPS) that must be purchased from Tier 1 solar energy sources each year between 2011 and 2016. The bill also increases the alternative compliance payment (ACP) for a shortfall in solar RPS requirements by \$0.05 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) over the current amount in 2011 and 2012, by \$0.10 per kWh between 2013 and 2016.

SB 278/HB474: Smart, Green, and Growing - Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

This Administration bill repeals the Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland and establishes a Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission. The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) must provide staff support for the commission. The commission must submit an annual report on its activities and recommendations to the Governor, the Presiding Officers, and specified committees of the General Assembly.