

GOAT Noat for April: Update on Environmental Legislation in the Maryland Assembly

Monday, March 21, was “cross-over” day, the day during the Maryland legislative session by which a bill must pass and cross over to the other chamber in order to be guaranteed a hearing. The session is scheduled to end on Monday, April 11.

- **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act (GGRA) - Reauthorization (HB610/SB323)**– renew and extend this 2009 law to strengthen Maryland’s Climate Action Plan and require a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Both the **Senate and House of Delegates passed this bill** by large bipartisan margins. It now goes to Governor Hogan to be signed into law. More info at: [www.wmdt.com/news/more-local-news/Major-climate-bill-passes-in-Maryland-House-Senate/38573790?ct=t\(\)](http://www.wmdt.com/news/more-local-news/Major-climate-bill-passes-in-Maryland-House-Senate/38573790?ct=t())
- **Clean Energy Jobs Act (HB 1106/SB 921)** – increase Maryland’s clean electricity standard – wind and solar – to 25% by 2020 and create a dedicated clean energy jobs and business development program. The **House of Delegates passed this bill** by a huge, bipartisan 92-43 margin. Email your senator and urge passage in that chamber: org.salsalabs.com/o/423/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=18825
- **Community Cleanup and Greening Act aka Bag Ban (HB31/SB57)** – ban plastic disposable bags and require most retailers to use paper, charge 10 cents for paper bags requested by customers, and use proceeds of the fee to compensate retailers and fund fresh food initiatives and community cleanup and greening efforts. **This bill didn’t make it out of committee.** Go to this site for some ideas about how to reduce your use of plastic now: d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ipc/pages/301/attachments/original/1452478175/Plastic_Lenten.pdf?1452478175
- **Pollinator Protection Act aka Pesticides or “Neonics” bill (HB211/SB198)** – require a warning on plants that have been treated with neonicotinoids (neonics) and not allow sale of these pesticides to consumers. Neonics have been confirmed to play a significant role in the alarming decline of bees and other pollinators. **Different versions of this bill passed the Senate and the House of Delegates.** They must be reconciled before it goes to Governor Hogan. More info at: thinkprogress.org/climate/2016/03/18/3761652/maryland-bee-protection-bill

For more information speak with John McKusick, Gary Gillespie, Carol Beck, Kevin-Douglas Olive, or Polly Heninger of the Green Organizing/Action Team (GOAT).

