HOUSE BILL 40

M5, P1 1lr1467 (PRE–FILED) CF 1lr1675

By: **Delegate Charkoudian** Requested: November 1, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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Maryland Energy Administration Study on Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems and Geothermal Energy Workgroup

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to conduct a certain 5 study on geothermal heating and cooling systems; providing for the content of the 6 study; authorizing the Administration to contract with a third-party to conduct the 7 study; requiring the Administration to submit the results of the study to the 8 Geothermal Energy Workgroup on or before a certain date; establishing the 9 Workgroup; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; 10 prohibiting a member of the Workgroup from receiving certain compensation, but 11 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Workgroup to 12 study and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the 13 Administration, in consultation with the Workgroup, to develop recommendations 14 for a certain incentive structure; requiring the Director of the Administration, or the 15 Director's designee, to report certain results, findings, and recommendations to the 16 General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this 17 Act; and generally relating to a study on geothermal heating and cooling systems 18 and the Geothermal Energy Workgroup.

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, 20 That:

- 21 (a) (1) The Maryland Energy Administration shall conduct a comprehensive 22 technical study on:
- 23 (i) the status of geothermal heating and cooling systems in the 24 State; and
- 25 (ii) the potential impact of expanding and incentivizing the use of geothermal heating and cooling systems in the State.

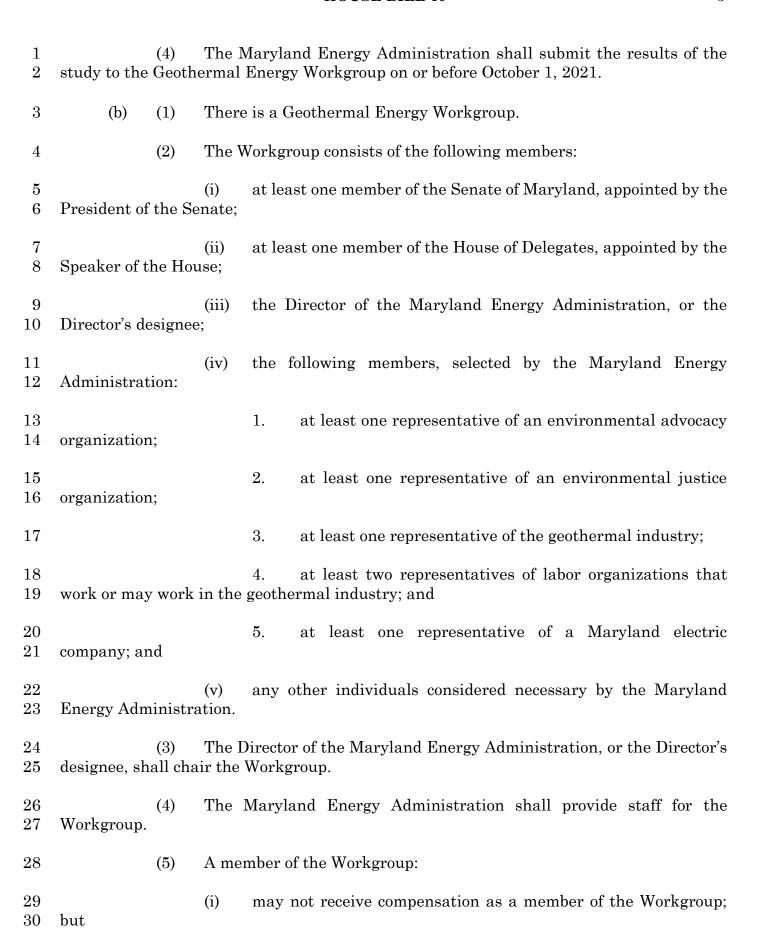
EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

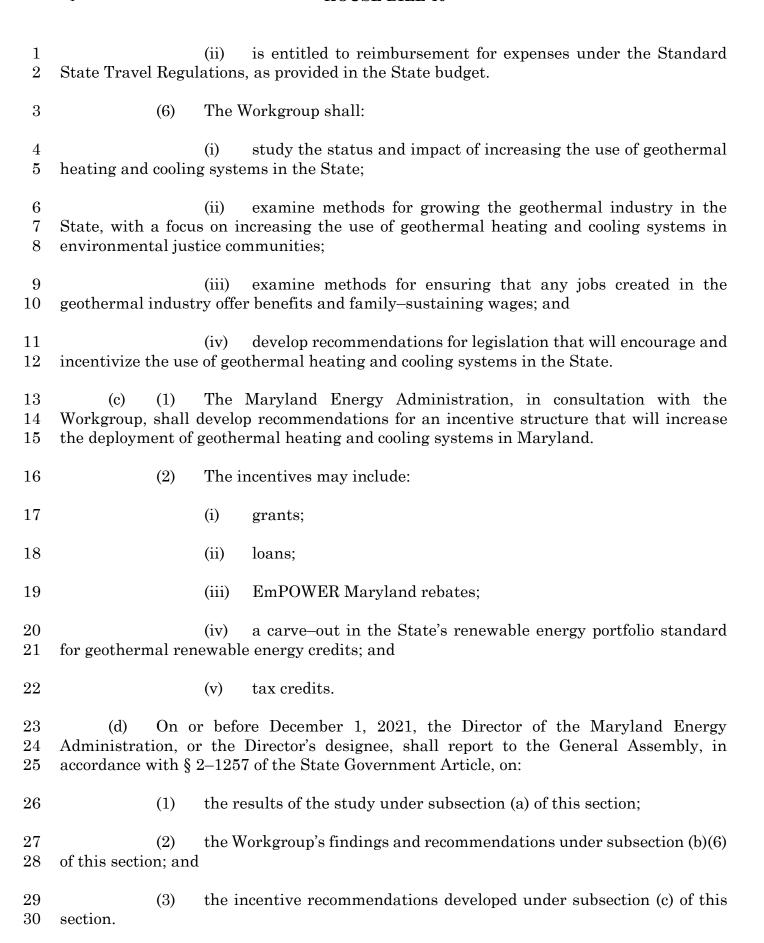
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



| 1 | (2) The study shall include: |
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| 2 3 | (i) the number of geothermal heating and cooling units currently operating in the State; |
| 4 5 | (ii) the cost and feasibility of increasing the use of geothermal heating and cooling systems in the State; |
| 6 7 | (iii) national and international best practices designed to incentivize the use of geothermal heating and cooling systems; |
| 8 9 | (iv) the potential for geothermal heating and cooling systems to reduce peak electricity demand; |
| 10 11 12 | (v) the potential reduction to all Maryland ratepayers in electricity costs associated with the increased use of geothermal heating and cooling systems, including savings from reduced peak electricity demand; |
| 13 14 | (vi) the economic benefits of increasing the use of geothermal heating and cooling systems to the State; |
| 15 | (vii) the potential to aggregate geothermal renewable energy credits; |
| 16 17 | (viii) the potential greenhouse gas reductions resulting from the use of geothermal heating and cooling systems; |
| 18 19 | (ix) the impact of geothermal heating and cooling systems on indoor air quality and localized pollution; |
| 20 21 22 | (x) the life-cycle costs of public school buildings over a 50-year period, including a comparison of the costs and energy efficiency associated with using geothermal heating and cooling systems compared to traditional energy systems; |
| 23 24 | (xi) the potential for family-sustaining job creation resulting from the expansion of geothermal heating and cooling systems in the State; |
| 25 26 27 | (xii) the potential to build neighborhood-scale district geothermal systems or convert existing utility infrastructure so that it can provide geothermal heating and cooling to an entire community; and |
| 28 29 30 | (xiii) any other factors related to expanding the use of geothermal heating and cooling systems that the Maryland Energy Administration considers necessary. |

31 (3) The Maryland Energy Administration may contract with a third–party 32 to conduct the study required under paragraph (1) of this subsection.





SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for 1 year and 1 month, and, at the end of June 30, 2022, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.