

HOUSE BILL 1356

M4, M5

1lr3002

By: **Delegate Barve**

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2021

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Blue Ribbon Solar Land Use Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Blue Ribbon Solar Land Use Commission; providing
4 for the composition, cochairs, and staffing of the Commission; prohibiting a member
5 of the Commission from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the
6 reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Commission to study and make
7 recommendations regarding certain matters relating to the State's solar energy goals
8 under the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard; requiring the Commission to report
9 its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
10 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
11 to the Blue Ribbon Solar Land Use Commission.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That:

14 (a) There is a Blue Ribbon Solar Land Use Commission.

15 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

16 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
17 the Senate;

18 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
19 House;

20 (3) the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary's designee;

21 (4) the Secretary of Natural Resources, or the Secretary's designee;

22 (5) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, or the Chairman's
23 designee; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(6) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of the Maryland Farm Bureau;

(ii) one representative of the Coalition for Community Solar Access;

(iii) one representative of the Chesapeake Solar & Storage Association; and

(iv) one representative of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network.

(c) The member of the Senate of Maryland and the member of the House of Delegates shall cochair the Commission.

(d) The Power Plant Research Program in the Department of Natural Resources shall staff the Commission.

(e) A member of the Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Commission shall study and make recommendations regarding the land use needs to meet the State's solar energy goals under the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, including:

(1) the total area of land, including agricultural land, that is likely necessary to meet the solar energy goals in a manner that is cost-effective for ratepayers in the State;

(2) the total number of megawatts of solar electricity that is needed to meet the solar energy goals;

(3) the rate of rooftop solar panels compared to ground-mounted solar panels that is needed to meet the number of megawatts of solar electricity identified under item (2) of this subsection;

(4) the number of ground-mounted solar panels that would be required to be allocated to each county, including Baltimore City, to meet the number of megawatts of solar electricity identified under item (2) of this subsection, based on the following equally weighted factors:

(i) the county's population;

1 (ii) the county's total area; and

2 (iii) how much of the county is agricultural land; and

3 (5) any other matter that the Commission considers necessary to help the
4 State meet its solar energy goals in a cost-effective manner.

5 (g) On or before December 1, 2021, the Commission shall report its findings and
6 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
7 Government Article, the General Assembly.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2021. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2022, this
10 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
11 further force and effect.