

SENATE BILL 469

Q7, M5

3lr2829

By: **Senators Elfreth and Guzzone**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2023

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 2, 2023

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Solar Tax Incentives**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Solar Tax Incentives; and
4 generally relating to solar tax incentives.

5 Preamble

6 WHEREAS, The State has set a State renewable energy goal; and

7 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the need to preserve the State's prime
8 agricultural land for agricultural production; and

9 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes the need to preserve forest land and
10 tree canopy for clean air and clean water; now, therefore,

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

13 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Solar Tax Incentives.

14 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

15 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
16 the Senate;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the Director's designee;

(4) the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, or the Chairman's designee;

(5) the Director of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, or the Director's designee;

(6) three representatives of the Maryland Association of Counties representing rural, suburban, and urban counties, respectively, designated by the Maryland Association of Counties;

(7) two representatives of organized labor, designated by the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO;

(8) one representative of the Office of People's Counsel, designated by the People's Counsel;

(9) two representatives of the construction industry, including:

(i) one representative designated by the Maryland Minority Contractors Association; and

(ii) one representative designated by the Associated Builders and Contractors of Maryland;

~~(7)~~ ~~(9)~~ (10) one representative of the Maryland Municipal League, designated by the Maryland Municipal League; and

~~(8)~~ ~~(10)~~ (11) four representatives of the solar energy industry, appointed by the Governor, including:

(i) at least one representative with a history of working with solar panels installed on rooftops;

(ii) at least one representative with a history of working with solar panels installed on the ground; and

(iii) at least one representative with a history of working with community solar energy generation.

1 (c) To the extent practicable, the membership of the Task Force shall reflect the
2 racial, gender, ethnic, and geographic diversity of the State, according to the most recent
3 census data.

4 ~~(e)~~ (d) The Director of the Maryland Energy Administration shall designate the chair
5 of the Task Force.

6 ~~(d)~~ (e) The Maryland Energy Administration shall provide staff for the Task Force.

7 ~~(e)~~ (f) A member of the Task Force:

8 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

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

11 ~~(f)~~ (g) The Task Force shall study and make recommendations regarding a tax
12 strategy that is more competitive than the State's current strategy to maximize the
13 installation of rooftop solar panels and community solar energy generating systems, to
14 facilitate and promote installation of grid-connected generation of renewable energy, and
15 to meet the State's renewable energy goals.

16 ~~(g)~~ (h) On or before December 15, 2023, the Task Force shall report its findings and
17 recommendations, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the
18 General Assembly.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
20 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2024, this
21 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
22 further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.