

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2018 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-7-2018

Draft No.: 2

Committee: TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING & THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Date: 2/22/2018

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Turner, Toles, Lehman and Taveras; Absent: Council Member Franklin)

Prince George's County Council Calling for Increase in Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard

The Legislative Officer summarized the purpose of the resolution and written referral comments that were received. The resolution requests that the Prince George's County Council urge the Maryland General Assembly to increase the State's renewable energy portfolio standard to a goal of at least 50% renewable energy no later than 2030 and a further goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035. The renewable energy portfolio standard must only contain safe, clean energy generation sources and not greenhouse gas emitting sources.

The sponsor of the resolution reiterated the purpose of the resolution to the Committee indicating the need for the framework for a transition to 100% clean renewable energy by 2035. The sponsor agreed to support language that includes conditions of increasing renewable energy to at least 50% by 2030. This approach embraces the content of either of the proposed State bills being considered this Session and Montgomery County's legislation that was passed last year.

The Committee Chair spoke in support of CR-7-2018 suggesting amended language. While understanding that CR-7-2018 was not initially proposed to support the state legislation; the Committee Chair proposed amended language so that it will provide support for either of the bills before the General Assembly. The Committee Chair also recommended that correspondence be forwarded to the State Delegation indicating the Council's support of the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.

Advocates from Sierra Club, Sydney Jacobs, Food & Water Watch, Emily Wurth, Maryland Clean Energy Jobs Initiatives, Jamie Demarco, and Eddie Pounds all spoke in support of CR-7-2018.

The amended language modified the Title on page 1, “A RESOLUTION concerning Prince George’s County Calling for Increase in [100%] Maryland’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.”

On Page 1, line 5, after the word “standard,” insert “to a goal of at least 50% renewable energy no later than 2030 and [to], a further goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035.

On Page 1, line 8 after the word “sources;” insert, “providing for transmittal of the resolution; and generally relating to renewable energy.

On Page 2, Line 15, after the word standard, insert to a goal of at least 50% renewable energy no later than 2030 and [to] a further goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035;

The Office of Law finds CR-7-2018 to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its adoption.

The Office of Audits and Investigations determined that CR-7-2018 should not have an adverse fiscal impact on the County if adopted. It may have unknown indirect economic impact on the County as a result of the positive effects of the use of 100% renewable energy.

The County Executive’s representative had no comment.