

Chapter 608

(House Bill 630)

AN ACT concerning

Primary and Secondary Education – School District Energy Use – Policy and Study

FOR the purpose of requiring each school district to adopt or update a school district energy policy beginning on a certain date; specifying the contents of a school district energy policy; encouraging school districts to set certain targets in their school district energy policy; requiring that a school district energy policy be posted on the school district’s website and updated with a certain frequency; requiring the Interagency Commission on School Construction to coordinate with the Department of the Environment and the Maryland Energy Administration to develop a certain template on or before a certain date; requiring the Interagency Commission to coordinate with the Administration and the Maryland Clean Energy Center to study and make recommendations regarding the Maryland Net Zero Energy School Initiative Grant Program; requiring the Interagency Commission to report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to school district energy policies.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 5–312.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

5–312.1.

(A) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ADOPT OR UPDATE A SCHOOL DISTRICT ENERGY POLICY.

(B) A SCHOOL DISTRICT ENERGY POLICY MUST:

(1) ADDRESS THE PURCHASING, CONSERVATION, AND EFFICIENCY OF ENERGY FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT;

(2) PROVIDE FOR THE MONITORING AND REPORTING OF:

(I) THE AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY USED FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES;

(II) THE PERCENTAGE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ANNUAL ELECTRICITY USE THAT IS FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES; AND

(III) THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OVERALL ELECTRICITY USE BY SOURCE AND SQUARE FOOT; AND

(3) INCLUDE CURRENT AND HISTORICAL DATA ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ENERGY USE BY SQUARE FOOT.

(C) IN ADOPTING OR UPDATING A SCHOOL DISTRICT ENERGY POLICY, EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT IS ENCOURAGED TO SET TARGETS TO INCREASE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY AND REDUCE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

(D) THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ENERGY POLICY SHALL BE:

(1) POSTED ON THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S WEBSITE; AND

(2) UPDATED EVERY ~~2~~ 3 YEARS.

(E) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2022, THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP A STANDARDIZED REPORTING TEMPLATE THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS CAN USE TO REPORT ON:

(1) THE AMOUNT OF ELECTRICITY FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT USED;

(2) THE PERCENTAGE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ANNUAL ELECTRICITY USE THAT IS FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES; AND

(3) THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OVERALL ELECTRICITY USE BY:

(I) SOURCE;

(II) SQUARE FOOT; AND

(III) INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL, IF POSSIBLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Interagency Commission on School Construction shall coordinate with the Maryland Energy Administration and the Maryland Clean Energy Center to study and make recommendations on how to:

(1) expand the Maryland Net Zero Energy School Initiative Grant Program; and

(2) provide additional funding for the Maryland Net Zero Energy School Initiative Grant Program.

(b) On or before December 1, 2021, the Interagency Commission on School Construction shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.