

# HOUSE BILL 503

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CF 1lr1917

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By: **Delegate P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment – Office on Climate Change – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Office on Climate Change in the Office of the Governor;  
4 specifying the purpose of the Office; requiring the Office to coordinate with the  
5 Commission on Climate Change to ensure certain recommendations are  
6 implemented; requiring the Office to ensure that each State agency addresses ways  
7 the agency can mitigate the causes of climate change and certain impacts of climate  
8 change; requiring the Office to initiate and oversee certain research and  
9 investigations; requiring the Office to work with local governments on the  
10 development and implementation of local climate change plans and identify  
11 resources needed for the implementation of the plans; requiring the Office to submit  
12 a certain report to the Governor, the General Assembly, and certain standing  
13 committees of the General Assembly each year; defining a certain term; and  
14 generally relating to the Office on Climate Change.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Environment

17 Section 2–13A–01 through 2–13A–04 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 13A.  
18 Office on Climate Change”

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Environment**

24 **SUBTITLE 13A. OFFICE ON CLIMATE CHANGE.**

25 **2–13A–01.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “OFFICE” MEANS THE OFFICE ON CLIMATE CHANGE.**

2   **2-13A-02.**

3           **(A) THERE IS AN OFFICE ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE OFFICE OF THE**  
4   **GOVERNOR.**

5           **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE OFFICE IS TO:**

6                   **(1) FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMISSION ON**  
7   **CLIMATE CHANGE’S RECOMMENDATIONS;**

8                   **(2) ENSURE THAT EACH STATE AGENCY CONSIDERS AND ADDRESSES**  
9   **CLIMATE CHANGE AS IT RELATES TO THE AGENCY AND ITS OPERATIONS;**

10                   **(3) INITIATE AND OVERSEE, AS NECESSARY, CLIMATE CHANGE**  
11   **RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS THAT ADDRESS FACTORS THE OFFICE**  
12   **DETERMINES ARE SUBSTANTIAL IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE BUT ARE NOT**  
13   **INCLUDED IN THE COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE’S RECOMMENDATIONS;**

14                   **(4) ASSIST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL**  
15   **CLIMATE CHANGE PLANS; AND**

16                   **(5) REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE GENERAL**  
17   **ASSEMBLY REGARDING THE STATE’S EFFORTS TO MITIGATE THE CAUSES OF,**  
18   **PREPARE FOR, AND ADAPT TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

19   **2-13A-03.**

20           **THE OFFICE SHALL:**

21                   **(1) COORDINATE WITH THE COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO**  
22   **ENSURE THE COMMISSION’S RECOMMENDATIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED;**

23                   **(2) ENSURE THAT EACH STATE AGENCY ADDRESSES:**

24                           **(I) WAYS THE AGENCY CAN MITIGATE THE CAUSES OF CLIMATE**  
25   **CHANGE; AND**

26                           **(II) THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE AGENCY’S**  
27   **PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES;**

1           **(3) INITIATE AND OVERSEE ANY ADDITIONAL RESEARCH OR**  
2 **INVESTIGATIONS THE OFFICE DETERMINES ARE NECESSARY TO ADDRESS FACTORS**  
3 **THAT THE OFFICE DETERMINES ARE SUBSTANTIAL IN FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE**  
4 **BUT ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE’S**  
5 **RECOMMENDATIONS; AND**

6           **(4) WORK WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO:**

7                   **(I) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE**  
8 **PLANS; AND**

9                   **(II) IDENTIFY RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION**  
10 **OF LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE PLANS.**

11 **2-13A-04.**

12           **EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND,**  
13 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE**  
14 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, AND THE**  
15 **HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

16           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**  
17 **October 1, 2021.**