

SENATE BILL 447

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By: **Senators Carozza, Hester, and Gallion**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing an Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup to study, identify,
4 examine, and make recommendations on certain aspects of anaerobic digestion; and
5 generally relating to the Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup.

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

7 That:

8 (a) There is an Anaerobic Digestion Workgroup.

9 (b) The Workgroup consists of the following members:

10 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
11 the Senate;

12 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
13 House;

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

15 (4) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

16 (5) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the Director's
17 designee;

18 (6) one member with expertise in organic waste management and
19 renewable energy, designated jointly by the Executive Directors of the Institute for Local
20 Self-Reliance;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (7) two members with expertise in organic waste management, with one of
2 the members designated by the President of the Solid Waste Association of North America:
3 Mid-Atlantic Chapter and one of the members designated by the President of the Board of
4 Directors of the Maryland Recycling Network;

5 (8) the President of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Farm Bureau,
6 or the President's designee;

7 (9) the President of the Board of Directors of the Delmarva Chicken
8 Association, or the President's designee; and

9 (10) the President of the Board of Trustees of the Rural Maryland
10 Foundation, or the President's designee.

11 (c) The Secretary of Agriculture shall designate the chair of the Workgroup.

12 (d) The Department of Agriculture shall provide staff for the Workgroup.

13 (e) A member of the Workgroup:

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

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

17 (f) The Workgroup shall:

18 (1) study the current regulations regarding anaerobic digestion;

19 (2) study the process of anaerobic digestion;

20 (3) identify and examine categories of digestate produced during anaerobic
21 digestion;

22 (4) identify and examine appropriate uses to recycle the digestate produced
23 during anaerobic digestion;

24 (5) identify and examine options for incentivizing the use of the digestate
25 produced during anaerobic digestion as agricultural fertilizer and manufactured topsoil;

26 (6) identify the infrastructure needs for the responsible construction of an
27 anaerobic digestion facility; and

28 (7) make recommendations regarding the requirements for the responsible
29 construction and operation of an anaerobic digestion facility.

1 (g) On or before December 30, 2023, the Workgroup shall report its findings and
2 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
3 Government Article, the General Assembly.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
5 1, 2023. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
6 30, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
7 abrogated and of no further force and effect.