



Safe Skies Maryland

**Audubon MD-DC * Safe Skies Maryland * City Wild Life * Lights Out Baltimore * Smart Growth Maryland *
Maryland League of Conservation Voters * Maryland Conservation Council
* Maryland Ornithological Society * Sierra Club, Maryland Chapter**

HB 192 – Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2020

HGO and Appropriations

January 6, 2020

Position: SUPPORT

In America, we lose an estimated one billion birds each year to collisions with window glass. Birds provide valuable ecological functions by consuming insects and rodents, dispersing seeds, and pollinating crops, thereby reducing the use of animal and human harming pesticides. They also contribute to state revenues with totals estimated to be \$333.6 million.

The increased use of glass in buildings also threatens to undo energy conservation efforts, costs the state money, and contributes to climate change. This bill would address both problems, requiring all newly built, acquired, or significantly renovated State Buildings to follow standards for treating windows and altering lighting which will both conserve energy and save birds.

Last year, this bill passed both Houses (with amendments) after being reconciled, but died on Sine Die. If the bill goes through this year, buildings (as noted above) will be required to:

- Establish standards to minimize adverse impacts on birds (there are many cost neutral solutions which can be incorporated into the design of new buildings as well as retrofitted ones)
- Follow energy conservation policies consistent with LEED Pilot Credit 55, thereby reducing energy consumption by approximately 40% or more, while earning LEED credit at the same time
- Lower electric bills by reducing lighting of buildings
- Update the standards developed every five years

Birds are a critical element in efforts to restore and conserve the Chesapeake Bay. Reducing energy consumption helps in the battle against climate change.

We respectfully request your support for the Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2020. Thank you for your consideration.

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