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Baltimore and Howard Counties

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations
and Estates and Trusts

Public Health and
Minority Health Disparities



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House Bill 236

**Department of General Services – Energy – Conserving Standards
(Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2021)**

Dear Chairman Pendergrass, Chairman McIntosh, and members of the Joint Committee,

HB236 is a reintroduction of HB192 from the previous session as it passed the House with a vote of 99-138. Both are near-identical to 2019 legislation that passed both chambers, only to run out of time, Sine Die.

HB 236 requires the Maryland Department of General Services to develop Green Building Council LEED Pilot Credit 55 standards “to the extent practicable” for application in newly constructed, acquired, or substantially altered state buildings (defined as buildings constructed with more than 50% state money). Incorporation of such architectural elements in the design and planning stage is cost-neutral and will reduce energy consumption substantially, making State buildings more sustainable. Additionally, compliance with such standards will make the building “bird-safe”, mitigating against the millions of deaths annually due to bird strikes of buildings. Allowable and aesthetically pleasing designs and materials include ultraviolet patterned, matte, opaque, etched, stained, or frosted glass/plexiglas®. The current bill does not require monitoring of bird-building collision as the 2019 bill did.

It isn’t often that we, as legislators, are presented with the opportunity to address a significant problem and save money, but that is exactly what House Bill 236 will allow you to do. We can reduce energy costs while decreasing Maryland’s contribution to the nearly one billion birds that die in the U.S. annually due to ecologically ill-considered and energy inefficient building facades and practices.

Passing HB236, The Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2020, is a win-win-win-win. By requiring the incorporation of LEED 55 standards in the planning, design, and construction of new and renovated State buildings, we can save taxpayer dollars, support our ecologic sustainability goals, sustain Maryland’s multi-million dollar avian-related activities and industries, AND meet our obligations as a signatory to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

I respectfully request a favorable report. Again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri L. Hill".