

# HOUSE BILL 1572

M5, C5

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By: **Delegate Ghrist**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard – Eligible Sources – Waste-to-Energy**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “Tier 1 renewable source” for purposes of  
4 including energy derived from waste as an energy source eligible for inclusion in the  
5 renewable energy portfolio standard; and generally relating to the renewable energy  
6 portfolio standard.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – Public Utilities

9 Section 7–701(a)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Public Utilities

14 Section 7–701(s)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Public Utilities

19 Section 7–701(u)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Public Utilities**

25 7–701.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

2 (s) "Tier 1 renewable source" means one or more of the following types of energy  
3 sources:

4 (1) solar energy, including energy from photovoltaic technologies and solar  
5 water heating systems;

6 (2) wind;

7 (3) qualifying biomass;

8 (4) methane from the anaerobic decomposition of organic materials in a  
9 landfill or wastewater treatment plant;

10 (5) geothermal, including energy generated through geothermal exchange  
11 from or thermal energy avoided by, groundwater or a shallow ground source;

12 (6) ocean, including energy from waves, tides, currents, and thermal  
13 differences;

14 (7) a fuel cell that produces electricity from a Tier 1 renewable source  
15 under item (3) or (4) of this subsection;

16 (8) a small hydroelectric power plant of less than 30 megawatts in capacity  
17 that is licensed or exempt from licensing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

18 (9) poultry litter-to-energy;

19 (10) **WASTE-TO-ENERGY**;

20 (11) thermal energy from a thermal biomass system; and

21 ~~[(11)]~~ (12) raw or treated wastewater used as a heat source or sink for a  
22 heating or cooling system.

23 (U) **"WASTE-TO-ENERGY" MEANS ENERGY GENERATED FROM A FACILITY A**  
24 **THAT:**

25 (1) **DOES NOT USE COMBUSTION;**

26 (2) **IS CAPABLE OF GENERATING ENERGY ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS TO**  
27 **MEET BASE LOAD;**

28 (3) **USES A CARBON-RECOVERY SYSTEM;**

1           **(4) DOES NOT PRODUCE BYPRODUCTS THAT REQUIRE LAND**  
2 **APPLICATION OR LANDFILL DISPOSAL;**

3           **(5) HAS A MINIMUM WASTE-TO-ENERGY CONVERSION RATIO OF 80%;**  
4 **AND**

5           **(6) MEETS THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY’S INTERIM**  
6 **GUIDANCE ON THE DESTRUCTION AND DISPOSAL OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND**  
7 **POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES AND MATERIALS CONTAINING**  
8 **PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES – VERSION 2 (2024).**

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That a presently existing obligation  
10 or contract right may not be impaired in any way by this Act.

11           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall apply to all  
12 renewable energy portfolio standard compliance years starting on or after January 1, 2026.

13           SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
14 October 1, 2026.