



Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2023

HB 6 - Delegate Terri Hill, SB 92 - Senator Clarence Lam

- ◆ Enacting the Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act will ensure Maryland continues to be a national leader in climate policy and energy efficiency - helping achieve the goals set out in the transformational 2022 Climate Solutions Now Act
- ◆ This bill would require all newly built, acquired, or renovated buildings receiving 51% Maryland state funding to follow standards for bird-friendly windows and shielded nighttime lighting, which will both conserve energy and save birds.
- ◆ Howard County passed Bird Friendly Design Standards CB11 in 2020, which requires most large, public and private buildings to comply with bird-friendly building standards.
- ◆ New York City and the State of Illinois have also recently passed similar laws to save birds and energy. The DC Council just passed a bird-friendly bill that is awaiting the mayor's signature.
- ◆ Under the Biden administration, the General Services Administration now includes bird-friendly standards in its guidelines for federal buildings.
- ◆ In the United States we lose one billion birds each year to collisions with window glass. These birds are part of our healthy breeding populations and their losses are unsustainable, as witnessed by the 29% reduction in bird numbers since 1970.
- ◆ Every year that bird populations decline, we lose valuable services in pollination, seed dispersal, and pest insect consumption.
- ◆ Birds are also critical to Maryland's tourism industry. Wildlife watching in Maryland generates over \$450 million in economic activity annually in the state.
- ◆ At the same time, the increased use of glass in buildings threatens to undo energy conservation efforts, costs the state money, and contributes to climate change. Traditional buildings lose heat in winter and gain heat in summer through large windows, while bird-safe buildings cost the same to build and save money over time through reduced energy costs.
- ◆ Bird-friendly design has been codified as a LEED Innovation Credit by the U.S. Green Building Council.