

(3) consider the impact of the renewable energy portfolio standard requirements in developing renewable energy in the State; and

(4) consider the cost implications to residential consumers of continuing the renewable energy portfolio standard requirements beyond 2014;

(5) determine the realized and projected availability of solar renewable energy credits in Maryland;

(6) consider the ability of a regional market to lower the cost impact of the solar requirements of the renewable energy portfolio standard on customers;

(7) consider the ability of a regional market, in complying with the solar requirements, to develop solar energy in Maryland; and

(8) determine the appropriate use of the funds that are paid into the Maryland Renewable Energy Fund from compliance fees, including specific criteria for making loans and grants, to achieve the intended goals of the renewable energy portfolio standard.

~~SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:~~

~~(a) The House Economic Matters Committee and the Senate Finance Committee jointly shall convene a workgroup to study issues relating to deployment of solar generation in the State and to make recommendations on means to encourage deployment of solar generation equipment in residential, commercial, and industrial facilities.~~

~~(b) The workgroup shall solicit input from Executive agencies, other interested parties, and consumers in the State and may include representatives of these parties as members.~~

~~(c) The purpose of the workgroup is to:~~

~~(1) investigate current incentives and programs available to encourage deployment of solar generation equipment in the State;~~

~~(2) assess their effectiveness and viability; and~~

~~(3) propose changes or enhancements to these programs as well as new programs that will increase solar deployment for the environmental, economic, and security benefits of the State and its residents.~~