

USGBC Monthly Advocacy Update

June 16, 2026



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International

Roxana Dela Fiamor

Launch of the U.S. League in the World Championship for Energy Savings

Your building is already doing the work. Now let's give it an award.

- National champions will be recognized at Greenbuild 2026
- U.S. Award categories include:
 - o Most Improved
 - o People's Choice Award
 - o Deep Emissions Reduction Award
 - o Healthy Indoor Air Award
 - o Impact at Scale Award
 - o ... and more!
- Free & easy to enter
 - o Already using ARC and Energy Star Portfolio Manager? You're halfway there!
- **Applications open from now until Aug. 31**
- All top performers will compete for global recognition at COP 31



**World Championship
for Energy Savings**



Federal Update

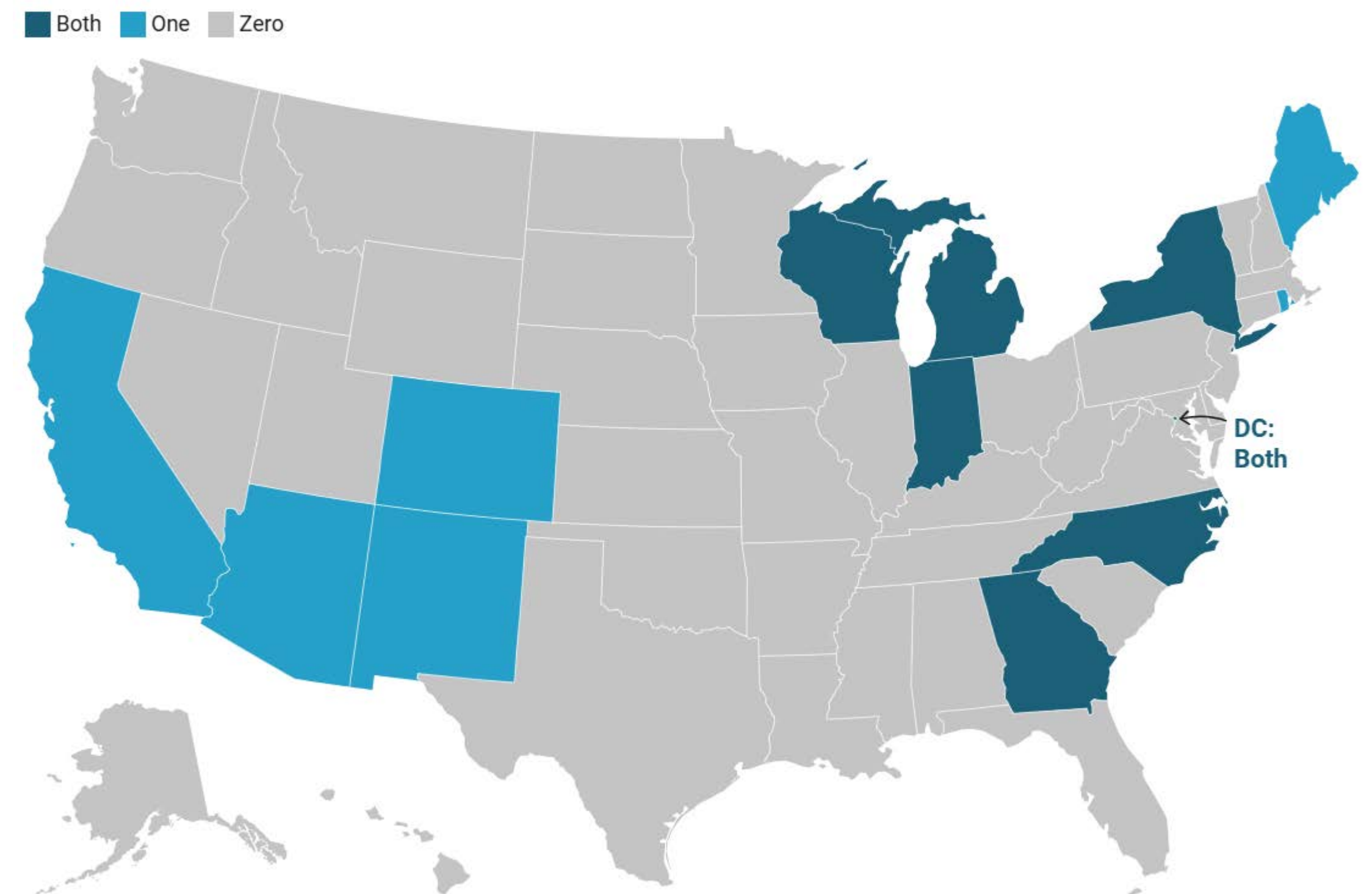
Sabine Rogers

IRA Home Energy Rebates

- On June 1, DOE released [updated guidance](#) for the IRA Home Energy Rebate Programs. Key changes include:
 - 40% low-income funding requirement is removed (retains 10% low-income multifamily requirement)
 - Removal of existing fossil systems is no longer allowed with **HEEHR/HEAR** rebate dollars
 - Added flexibility for multifamily upgrades
- With this guidance, states will now be able to update their plans and launch programs.
- States that have already launched their programs have until August 31 to make the necessary changes.

Most States Do Not Have Launched Rebate Programs

Map shows the HOMES and HEAR rebate program launch status by state.



Map source: DOE Alumni

Network, <https://doealumninetwork.substack.com/p/scep-programs-were-intended-to-help>

Housing Legislation

- The Senate is expected to vote this week on an updated version of the [21st Century ROAD to Housing Act \(H.R. 6644\)](#), after the House passed an amended version of the bill on May 20.
- Check out our new article for more on what's at play in the package for green building-related provisions: <https://www.usgbc.org/articles/congress-moves-closer-passing-major-housing-reform-bill>

Congress moves closer to passing major housing reform bill



ENERGY STAR

Administration

- EPA and DOE have not released a transition plan, despite the 90-day window outlined in the MOA ending June 1.

FY27 Appropriations

- The House Appropriations Committee passed its Interior-Environment bill with level funding of \$33.024M for ENERGY STAR at EPA included in bill text. The committee also adopted report language directing EPA "to provide regular updates regarding the Memorandum of Agreement."
- The Senate has not marked up its Interior-Environment or Energy-Water bills yet.

FY27 Appropriations

Appropriations Bill	House	Senate
Energy-Water	Approved by Committee on May 20. • Bill text • Report	<i>TBD</i>
Interior-Environment	Approved by Committee on June 3. • Bill text • Report	<i>TBD</i>
Transportation-HUD	Approved by Committee on June 3. • Bill text • Report	<i>TBD</i>
Financial Services and General Government (FSGG)	Approved by Committee on April 22. • Bill text • Report	<i>TBD</i>



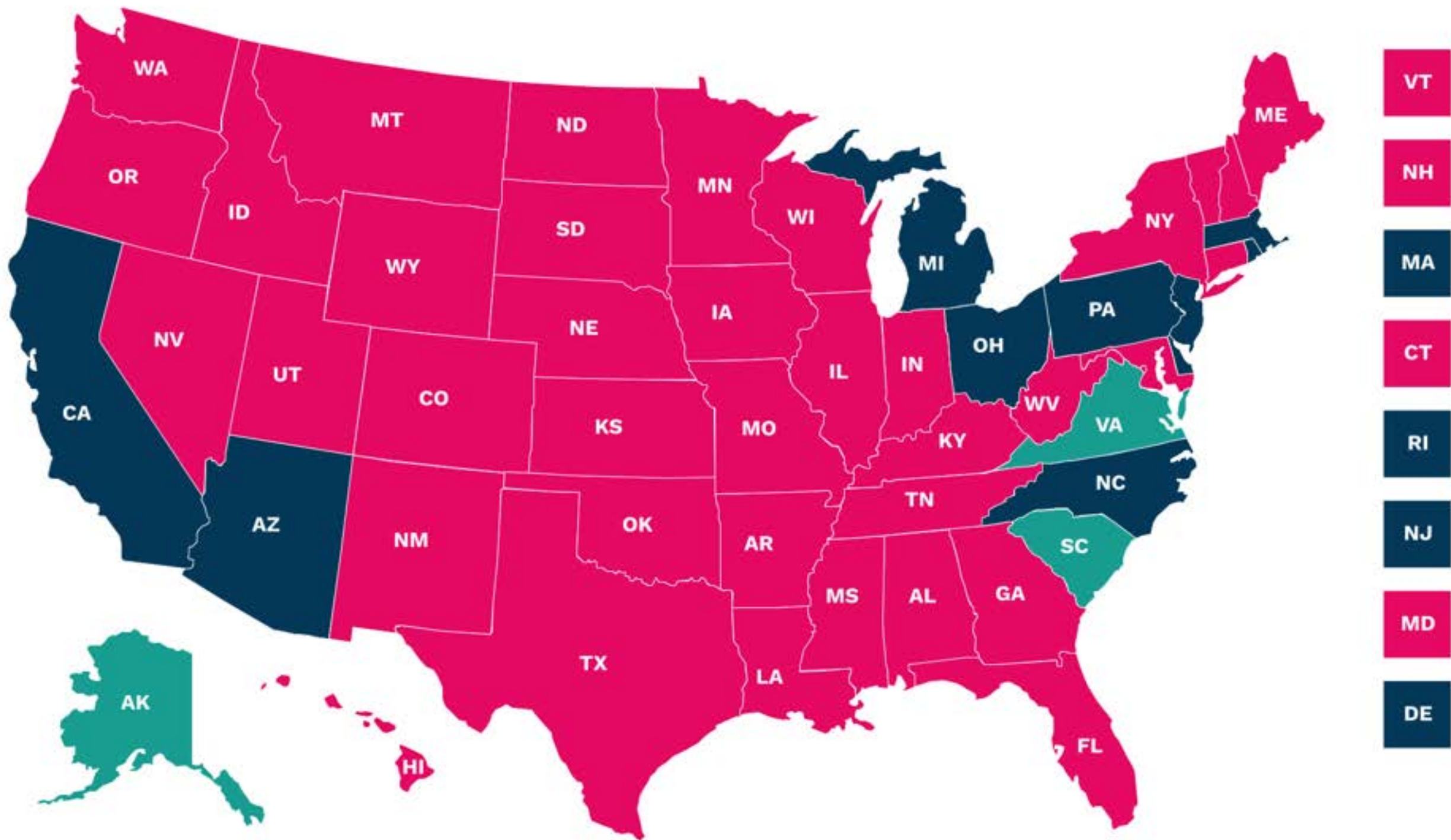
State & Local Update

Jennifer Gunby, Ian Hancock, Kristen Cheriegate, Dana Adams,
Gracie Tilman

State Legislative Session Status

2026 State Legislative Session Status

■ Legislature in regular session ■ Legislature not in session ■ In special session



2026 State Session Start Calendar

States in Session

- AZ, CA, DE, MA, MI, NC, NJ, OH, RI

States in Special Session

- AK, SC, VA

Regular State Session Adjourned for 2026

- AL, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, ID, IL, IN, IA, KS, KT, LA, ME, MD, MA, MN, MO, NE, NH, NM, NY, OK, OR, SD, TN, UT, VT, WA, WV, WI, WY

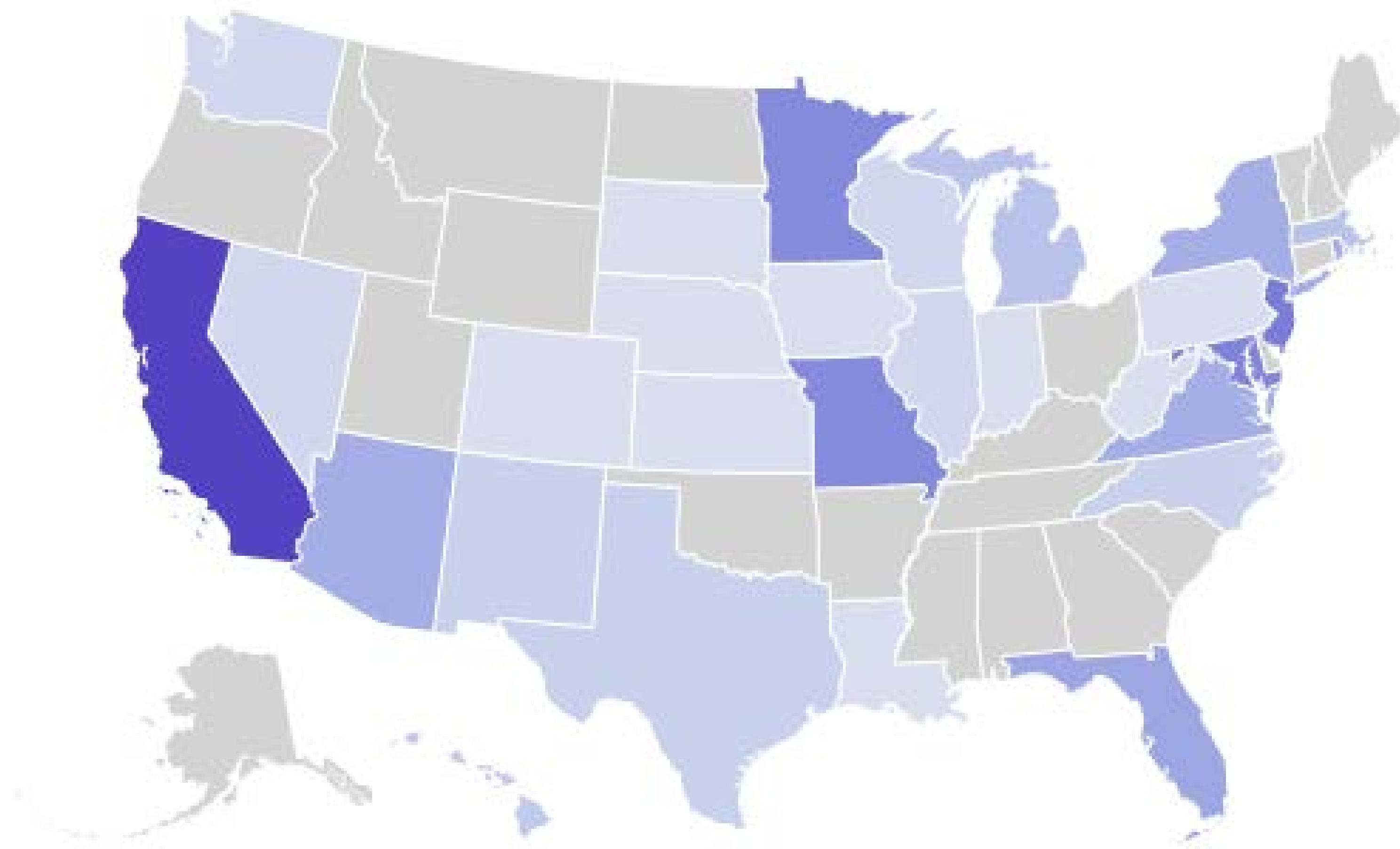
States not in session in 2026

- MT, NV, ND, TX



Source: MultiState. Data as of June 11, 2026.

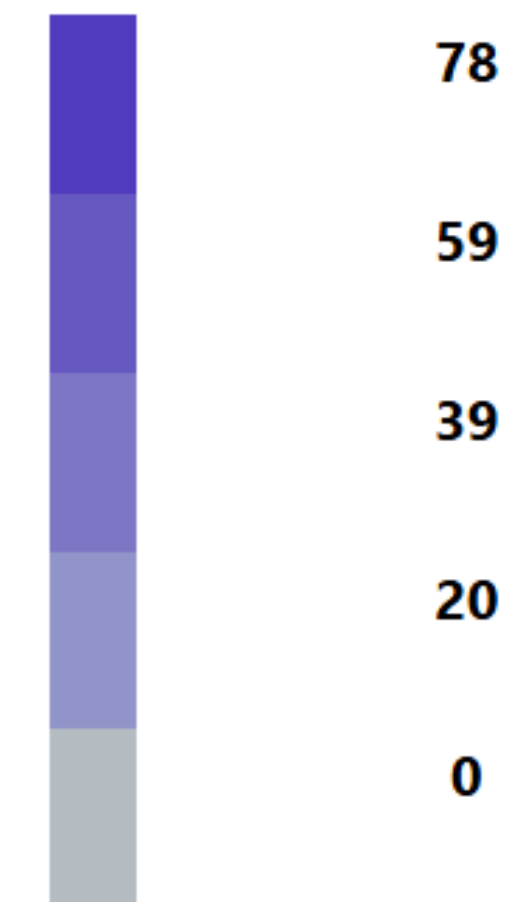
State Legislative Tracking



Legislative Review

- All bills – 522
- Medium Priority Bills – 167
- High Priority Bills – 48

Number of Bills



CA – Changing Standards towards Climate Goals



SB 1398: State agencies: building and renovation projects: Green Globes certification. (opposing)

This bill would amend Section 8316 of the California Government Code to allow one 3rd-party rating system to bypass the current pathway to be used for new state agency buildings and major renovation projects.

AB 1704: Greenhouse gases: embodied carbon building materials. (opposing)

The bill would delay the implementation of embodied carbon regulations for construction of new buildings.

TX – High Performance Building Standard



High-Performance Building Design Evaluation System
Advisory Committee

TX 2026 Session: no regular session

LA – Threats to 2022 Louisiana Climate Action Plan



HR 274: Requests a review of the Climate Initiatives Task Force and the Louisiana Climate Action Plan by the House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment - *Enacted on May 20*

HB 804: Creates the Louisiana Energy Protection Act - *sent to Governor Landry on June 1*

HB 566: Prohibits use of state funds in support of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions policies – *Failed sine die*

HCR 59 Repudiating the Climate Action Plan– *Failed sine die*

LA 2026 Session: March 9, 2026 – June 1, 2026

RI – Green Buildings



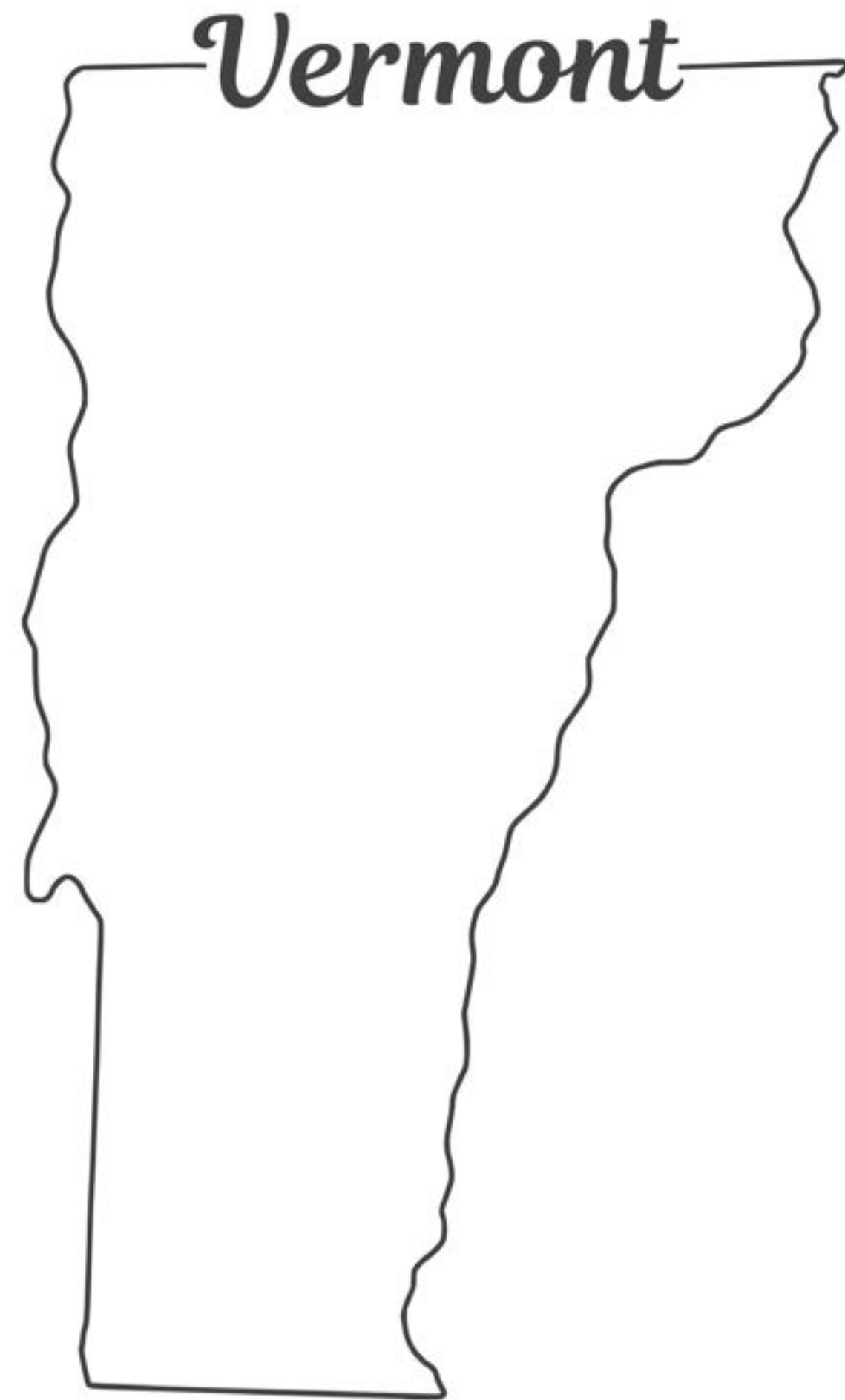
HB 7739/SB 2765 (support): would create the Green Building Act Commission and lower the threshold for LEED certification for existing public buildings after renovation from 40% to 20% renovation. **Held in committee.**

HB 7183/SB 2260 (support): would require the RI Office of Energy Resources to establish a building energy reporting program for buildings over 25,000 gross square feet. **Passed both Chambers.**

SB 2873 (support): would establish requirements for indoor air quality monitoring and improvement in public schools. **Passed first chamber.** Its companion bill, **HB 7582, was held in committee.**

Post Call Note: The Legislature adjourned early on 6/11, thus the bills listed here failed *sine die*.

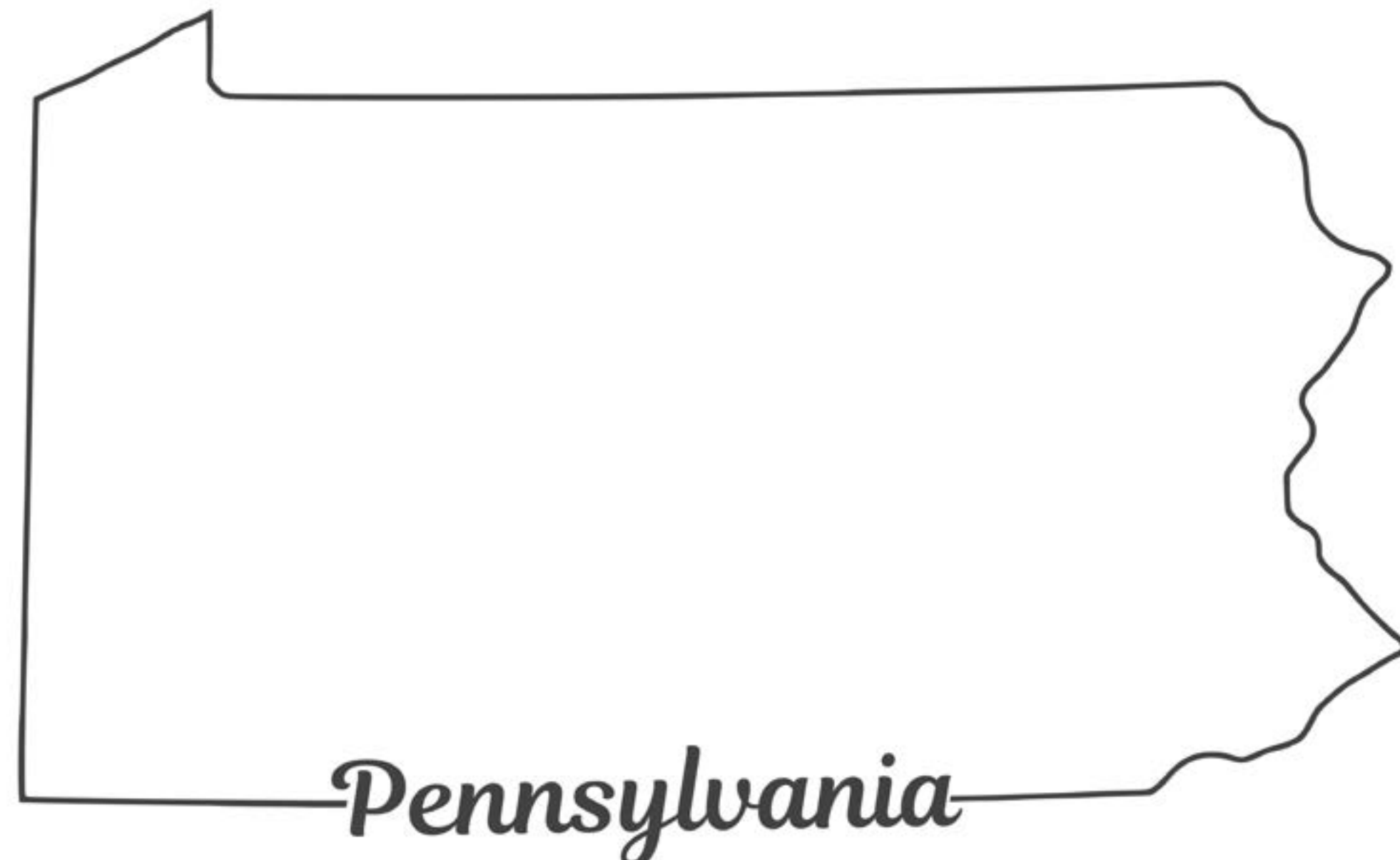
VT – Data Centers



H. 727 (vetoed/veto override failed) – would have established a framework for data center regulation and included minor sustainability measures.

Bill passed the legislature and was vetoed by the Governor. The Legislature voted on whether to override the veto, but the veto was sustained.

PA – Data Centers and Codes



SB 1297 – would require data centers to procure 100% of annual electricity from Tier I alternative energy sources and obtain a green building certification with options such as LEED.

HB 2498 – would pause the adoption of the 2024 ICC codes for a “comprehensive” review of existing codes in relation to economic impact and public input (with the intent of reducing construction costs) and would define a schedule for future code adoption.

VA – Data Centers

2026-2028 Biennium Budget

Budget negotiations still ongoing. Key sticking point is whether to keep the sales and use tax exemption for data centers. Could be an opportunity to add environmental standards to the tax exemption, if retained. House reconvening for special session on June 18, Senate on June 22. Deadline is June 30.



Where is A&P?



California Green Building Conference

- May 27 - 28 in Berkeley, CA
- Hosted by USGBC-CA
- Local Gov Leadership Summit on day 1
- Booth in Expo Hall on day 2
- LEED v5 & Topical Expertise help desk



U.S. Conference of Mayors

- June 4th – 6th, Long Beach CA
- Jennifer & Kristen, and Hilari Varnadore attended.
- We were answering lots of questions, connecting Mayors with resources, even had a fun little trivia game at our table
- Next USCM events in 2027



Housing Credit Connect 2026

- National Council of State Housing Agencies (NCSHA) hosted its 2026 Credit Connect conference in St. Louis, Missouri.
- Programming focused on how to maintain project speed and delivery despite external influences on cost and project timelines (e.g. Buy American, Build American Act, inflation, tariffs).
- Notably, less of an emphasis on sustainability than last year's conference.
- NCSHA highlighted trends in state affordable housing programs: emphasizing flexibility, cost cutting strategies, and stepping away from sustainability mandates.



DC Impact Symposium

- June 11 in College Park, MD
- Hosted by USGBC
- Featuring local government leaders
- Led sessions on green building policy & financing resilience
- Next local government summit: Chicago on July 15





Open Discussion

- What have you been working on?
- Updates from your state or locality?
- Questions?