

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 886
Economic Matters

(Delegate Howard, *et al.*)

Electric Companies - Billing Information

This bill requires an electric company, upon request of a retail electricity customer, to provide the customer the historic usage and billing information for the customer's account for at least the 12 preceding months. The information must be accessible to the customer as (1) information on the electric company's website; (2) information provided electronically in a searchable PDF format; or (3) a physical document sent to the customer at the customer's bill address.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Electric companies are not required to provide the specified information in the specified formats under State law. However, Public Service Commission regulations require electric companies to retain customer billing records for at least three years and specify information that must be included in customer bill forms, including:

- readings of all meters used for billing purposes at the end of the period for which the bill is rendered;
- the meter reading date;

- the applicable rate schedule, including any seasonal or time differential in base rates for the billing period in which the differential is applicable, or identification of the applicable rate schedule;
- information concerning the customer's electricity usage during the same billing period in the prior year; and
- the company's appropriate business address and telephone number for billing inquiries.

Background: The Electric Customer Choice and Competition Act of 1999 facilitated the restructuring of the electric utility industry in Maryland. The resulting system of customer choice allows the customer to purchase electricity from a competitive supplier or to continue receiving electricity under standard offer service (SOS). Default SOS electric service is provided by customer's *electric company* (e.g., Baltimore Gas and Electric Company or Pepco). Competitive electric supply is provided by competitive *electricity suppliers*. In either case, the electric company delivers the electricity and recovers the costs for delivery through distribution rates.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission; Office of People's Counsel; Department of Legislative Services

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mr/lgc

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