



Bill No: HB 928-- Public Service Commission - Electricity and Gas Suppliers - Training and Educational Program

Committee: Economic Matters

Date: 2/20/2020

Position: Support with Amendment

The Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA) represents members that own or manage more than 23 million square feet of commercial office space and 133,000 apartment rental units in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Through AOBA Alliance Inc., the Association also facilitates low-cost energy procurement for the commercial building industry, including multifamily apartment buildings. With more than 15 years of expertise, the Alliance serves as a licensed broker and marketer of energy services in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

This bill requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to develop a training and educational program, in consultation with interested stakeholders, for any entity or individual that is licensed by PSC as an electricity supplier or a gas supplier. Per the bill, the training will give suppliers a thorough understanding of sales and consumer protection as it relates to an energy supply contract.

Because electricity and gas suppliers are defined¹, in part, as a person “who purchases, brokers, arranges, or markets electricity or electricity supply services for sale to a retail electric customer” HB 928 would also extend to brokers. AOBA submits that utility brokers should be excluded from the bill as they are not a party to the electric or natural gas contract. The contract is strictly between the end-user and the third-party supplier. As brokers do not sell commodity (gas or electric) to the end-users, there seems to be no need for the type of training required in this bill and AOBA requests the requirement be waived for utility brokers.

For further information contact Erin Bradley, AOBA Vice President of Government Affairs, at 301-261-1460 or erbradley@aoba-metro.org .

¹ Md. Public Utilities Article § 1-101(j)(ii); § 1-101(n)(ii)