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Consumer Protection
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HB 886 Electric Companies - Billing Information – Support

With the offered amendment, HB 886 requires Maryland utilities to provide each customer with a searchable PDF of their electricity bills for the previous twelve months.

In recent years, we have had a lot of discussion regarding who owns customer data. This bill is based on the concept that a customer's billing information is their own and that they have a right to access it.

Accessing previous statements is crucial for allowing customers to analyze their energy consumption patterns, which many do with the goal of reducing their energy usage and optimizing their electricity bill.

To have the opportunity to do this, all electricity consumers should have the right to access their energy bills for the previous twelve months, at a minimum. As amended, this bill guarantees that right for all Marylanders.

The ability to access previously posted billing statements is not a novel concept. Many industries make previous billing statements and related information available online in an easily accessible format. In fact, right now, a consumer can go online and view their past credit card and bank statements, mortgage statements, cell phone bills, and cable and internet bills, covering the previous year or longer. Electric utility bills should be the same, and this bill with amendments ensures they are.

Colleagues, I thank you for your time and ask for a favorable report on HB886 this bill.