

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 682

(Senator Hester)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Economic Matters

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**Electric Companies - Regional Transmission Organizations - Report (Utility  
Transparency and Accountability Act)**

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This bill requires each electric company that is a member of a regional transmission organization (RTO), other than a municipal electric utility, to submit a report to the Public Service Commission (PSC) by February 1 each year containing specified information related to any recorded votes at an RTO meeting during the immediately preceding calendar year. The report must include (1) all recorded votes cast by the electric company, regardless of whether the vote is otherwise disclosed and (2) all votes cast by an affiliate of the electric company if the electric company itself does not vote on the matter.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** PSC can handle the bill's requirements with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** PSC must supervise and regulate public service companies, which includes electric companies, subject to its jurisdiction to (1) ensure their operation in the interest of the public and (2) promote adequate, economical, and efficient delivery of utility services in the State without unjust discrimination. In doing so, PSC must consider the public safety, the economy of the State, the maintenance of fair and stable labor standards for affected workers, the conservation of natural resources, the preservation of environmental quality,

the achievement of the State’s climate commitments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the protection of a public service company’s infrastructure against cybersecurity threats. PSC must also enforce compliance with legal requirements by public service companies.

State law does not require electric companies to be a member of an RTO, nor does it require that votes be disclosed. In practice, most, if not all, electric companies in the State are members of PJM Interconnection, LLC – the applicable RTO.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 505 (Delegate Charkoudian) - Economic Matters.

**Information Source(s):** Public Service Commission; Office of People’s Counsel; PJM Interconnection, LLC; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 20, 2024  
js/lgc Third Reader - April 5, 2024  
Revised - Amendment(s) - April 5, 2024

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