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Economic Matters Committee
Chair
Business Regulation Subcommittee

House Chair, Veterans Caucus
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony for HB 648
Economic Matters Committee

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman, Madame Vice – Chair, and esteemed members of the committee.

I am Delegate C.T Wilson and it's a privilege to be here to present:

House Bill 648 entitled Electric Cooperatives – Meetings – Alterations

Bill Overview:

Authorizing annual and special meetings of the members of an electric cooperative to be conducted in person, virtually, or both; requiring the notice of annual and special meetings to include certain information; altering certain requirements for a quorum; repealing a requirement that for voting to occur by mail or electronic transmission, the manner must be provided in the cooperative's bylaws; and authorizing voting to be conducted in a certain manner in accordance with the cooperative's bylaws.

Bill Outline:

1. An annual meeting may be held in person; virtually; or with a combination of in – person and virtual attendance.
2. Except as otherwise, notice of each meeting of the members must be mailed or provided by electronic transmission to each member not less than 10 days or more than 90 days before the date of the meeting
3. If a person entitled to notice of a meeting attends the meeting, the person's presence shall constitute a waiver of notice of the meeting, unless the person participates in the meeting solely to object to the transaction of any business because the meeting has not been legally called or convened.
4. Unless the bylaws require the presence of a greater percentage or number of the members for a quorum, a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the members of a cooperative shall be 5% or 50 members in person that has no more than 1,000 members

5. If less than a quorum is present at any meeting, majority of those in person attendance may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice
6. Each member of a cooperative is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members
7. A person may not vote by proxy for more than three members at any meeting of the members

Conclusion: In conclusion, this bill aims to allow meetings to be conducted in – person, virtually, or a combination of both while provided within the cooperative bylaws. This authorization will alter the requirements of quorum and authorize voting in any manner to be provided within the bylaws generally relating to meetings of members of electronic cooperatives.

Thank you for your time and I request a favorable report for **HB 648**. I am open to any questions or concerns that you may have regarding this bill.