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TO: Finance Committee

FROM: Southern Maryland Delegation

DATE: February 8, 2021

RE: **SB 561/HB 648 – Electric Cooperatives – Meetings - Alterations**

The Southern Maryland Delegation has voted in support of:

SB 561/HB 648– Electric Cooperatives – Meetings - Alterations

Bill Overview:

This bill is sponsored by **Senator Stephen S. Hershey, Jr.** for the purpose of 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. The bill will allow Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) & Choptank Electric Cooperative on the Eastern Shore to hold its Annual Meeting in person, virtually or with a combination of in person and virtual attendance. This will allow a person who is unable to attend the meeting in person to participate virtually and still count towards the requisite quorum of 50 members in attendance.
2. The passage of this bill, would allow SMECO to propose a change to its bylaws during the 2021 Annual Meeting to reflect the change in participation requirements. If that bylaw change is adopted, the new meeting format can be implemented for the 2022 Annual Meeting.

The Southern Maryland Delegation respectfully requests a favorable report for **SB 561/HB 648**.