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Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations  
Committee

*Chair*

Health Occupations and  
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

*House Chair*

Joint Committee on Administrative,  
Executive, and Legislative Review



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**Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg**  
**Before the House Economic Matters Committee**  
**In Support of**  
**House Bill 1103**  
**Electric Companies - Reliability Standards**

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Imagine power outages leaving your home without electricity for days at a time, even in good weather.

If you were a resident of Stuart Avenue in Baltimore that would be an all too often occurrence, and you would repeatedly lose valuable work and leisure time to power outages – not to mention refrigerators full of food.

Maryland electric companies are required to submit annual reliability performance reports to the state's Public Service Commission, and to document steps to address their poorest performing feeder lines and substations. However, under the current standards for defining poor performance, those reports do not capture the persistent problems with electric outages experienced by smaller neighborhoods such as Stuart Avenue.

House Bill 1103 would help close this reporting gap by modifying the current threshold for reporting on poor performing feeder lines and substations. Specifically, the bill would establish a new reliability standard by redefining poor performing feeders as those with a circuit reliability performance of 200% or more above the system-average interruption frequency index, a more sensitive measure than the current guideline of 250% or more above the existing index.

This change in the annual reporting requirements would better capture the reliability of electric service in neighborhoods throughout the state and focus the attention of Maryland's

electric companies on remedies for the extended outages experienced by some of those neighborhoods.

I urge a favorable report on HB 1103.