

## **Position Statement**

**Oppose** Finance Committee 2/25/2020

## SB 681: Electricity Suppliers and Gas Suppliers - Consumer Protections

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) opposes *Senate Bill 681: Electricity Suppliers and Gas Suppliers - Consumer Protections*. This bill authorizes the Office of People's Counsel (OPC) to investigate and request specified documents from a retail electricity or gas supplier, subject to specified requirements. Unless the Public Service Commission (PSC) determines that a supplier is not required to respond, a supplier must provide written responses and documents to OPC.

One concerning aspect of the bill is the lack of clarity regarding the responsible entities for providing a chart that compares a third-party electricity supplier's rate to the utility's standard offer service rate. Third-party supplier billing information for each of the suppliers customers is not readily accessible to the utility.

Currently, third-party suppliers generally provide BGE with customer "bill ready" information, which includes the total bill amount assessed to the customer. BGE does not have access rate information outlined in this bill; therefore, it is not feasible for the utility to provide the calculations required under the bill. The responsibility of providing this supplier information should be placed on the supplier offering the rate rather than the utility.

Accordingly, BGE opposes Senate Bill 681, unless it is amended to clarify that suppliers must provide the data and calculations that this legislation requires be included in customer bills.