



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 839

DATE: March 2, 2023

SPONSOR: Delegate Qi

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)

Investor-Owned Electric Companies – Clean Energy Homes Pilot Programs – Establishment (Maryland Resilient and Clean Energy Homes Act)

Shifting building energy use to high efficiency electric technology, powered by an increasingly clean and renewable electric grid, is an important strategy to achieve state and local climate goals. A recent study performed to support the Public Service Commission (PSC) in considering new energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals for the EmPOWER Maryland program revealed that tremendous potential exists for electrification to help reduce GHG emissions associated with Maryland's housing stock.

This bill would require each investor-owned electric company to develop and seek approval from the PSC to offer a three-year pilot program focused on residential electrification. These programs will benefit Maryland residents and property owners, and they will provide a critical learning opportunity for the PSC, utilities, home energy contractors, community advocates, and local governments, all of whom will have roles to play in supporting a transition to electric appliances like heat pumps for years to come.

These pilot programs will provide valuable incentives and support to help property owners in Montgomery County and elsewhere to make improvements to their properties. The bill appropriately allows for larger incentives for programs serving low-income households, and allows utilities to earn performance incentives.

We respectfully request that the Economic Matters Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 839.