



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**HB 505**

**DATE: February 20, 2024**

**SPONSOR: Delegate Charkoudian**

**ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters Committee**

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

**POSITION: Favorable (Department of Environmental Protection)**

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### **Limitations on Cost Recovery by Public Service Companies and Reports on Votes Cast at Meetings of Regional Transmission Organizations (Utility Transparency and Accountability Act)**

This legislation would impose important ratepayer protections and require appropriate transparency of regulated utilities serving Maryland customers.

This bill would prohibit utility companies from recovering through rates certain costs related to lobbying, political campaigns, corporate marketing, investor relations, and trade group participation. Utilities would be required to disclose such activities to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to enable appropriate oversight by the PSC.

This bill would also require electric companies to report to the PSC on votes cast at meetings of PJM Interconnection, the regional transmission organization responsible for planning and managing the regional electric grid serving Maryland along with all or portions of a dozen other states and the District of Columbia. These are appropriate and important disclosures to enable transparency into how the interests of Maryland ratepayers are being represented in decisions that can significantly affect customer utility bills and the speed of the clean energy transition, which in turn impacts the speed at which we are able to achieve our climate goals.

We respectfully request that the Economic Matters Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 505.