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By: **Senators Green, Conway, Della, Dyson, Forehand, Frosh, Giannetti,  
Klausmeier, Middleton, Pinsky, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Residential Electricity Aggregation**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the Public Service Commission to proceed with the design  
4 and approval of a competitive pilot program for opt-out residential aggregation  
5 by a certain date; and generally relating to electricity aggregation programs in  
6 Maryland.

7 WHEREAS, The electricity industry in Maryland was deregulated in 1999; and

8 WHEREAS, Electricity rate caps to protect Maryland's residential market will  
9 be completely eliminated by 2009; and

10 WHEREAS, Current law allows governmental units, businesses, and certain  
11 others to form aggregation groups for their own benefit in order to obtain the best  
12 possible electricity prices under certain circumstances; and

13 WHEREAS, Local governments currently are prohibited by statute from  
14 instituting opt-out electrical aggregation programs for their residents unless the  
15 Public Service Commission first determines that there is not sufficient competition  
16 within that jurisdiction; and

17 WHEREAS, Deregulation has not led to the development of an open and  
18 competitive electricity market serving the best interests of Maryland residential  
19 electricity customers; and

20 WHEREAS, The General Assembly believes that local governments should be  
21 given the option to offer opt-out electricity purchasing aggregation programs for the  
22 residential market; and

23 WHEREAS, The Public Service Commission has offered to work with local  
24 governments and create a pilot program for local governments to offer residential  
25 aggregation programs; now, therefore, be it

26 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,** That the  
27 General Assembly urges the Public Service Commission, in consultation with the  
28 Maryland Municipal League and interested local governments, to proceed

1 immediately with the design and approval of a competitive pilot program for opt-out  
2 residential aggregation by April 1, 2006; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
4 Legislative Services to the Honorable Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland;  
5 the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and  
6 the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.