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

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Finance, February 23, 2006

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2006

RESOLUTION NO. _____

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
 4 development of the design and approval framework of a competitive pilot
 5 program for opt-out residential aggregation by a certain date; specifying that
 6 the pilot program would include only local governments that have expressed an
 7 interest in being included in the pilot program; and generally relating to
 8 electricity aggregation programs in Maryland.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
8 General Assembly urges the Public Service Commission, in consultation with the
9 Maryland Municipal League and interested local governments, to proceed
10 ~~immediately by December 1, 2006,~~ with the development of the design and approval
11 framework of a competitive pilot program for opt-out residential aggregation ~~by April~~
12 ~~1, 2006~~ which would include only local governments that have expressed an interest
13 in being included in the pilot program; and be it further

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