

# SENATE BILL 1075

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CF HB 927

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By: **Senators Klausmeier and Feldman**

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 2016

Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission – Electric Affordability Program – Study**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to study and make  
4 recommendations about the advisability of establishing an opt-in electric  
5 affordability program for certain customers of certain electric companies with certain  
6 characteristics and the advisability of allowing certain electric cooperatives to  
7 participate in the program; requiring the Commission to study and make  
8 recommendations about the manner in which a certain program should be conducted,  
9 including certain provisions, qualifications, and procedures; requiring the  
10 Commission to report certain recommendations by a certain date to the Senate  
11 Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee; and generally  
12 relating to the affordability of electricity supply and services.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
14 That:

15 (a) (1) The Public Service Commission shall study and make recommendations  
16 about:

17 (i) the advisability of:

18 1. establishing an opt-in electric affordability program  
19 among retail electric companies for residential and small business customers in the service  
20 territories of the Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco), Allegheny Power, Baltimore  
21 Gas and Electric Company (BGE), or Delmarva Power and Light Company that would be  
22 based on:

23 A. the offer of multiple-year contracts for electricity at a fixed  
24 price per kilowatt-hour;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   B.     value-added products and services to help customers  
2 manage overall energy costs; and

3                   C.     other potential customer benefits; and

4                   2.     allowing electric cooperatives to participate in the  
5 program under item (i)1 of this paragraph; and

6                   (ii)  the manner in which the program under item (i) of this  
7 paragraph, if advisable, should be conducted, including:

8                   1.     provisions relating to low-income customers to be assisted  
9 by the program;

10                  2.     the duration of customer contracts under the program;

11                  3.     procedures governing wholesale electricity procurement  
12 for the program;

13                  4.     the minimum qualifications of licensed electricity  
14 suppliers and associated providers of value-added products and services that would be  
15 eligible to participate in the program; and

16                  5.     procedures and principles of cost recovery for the  
17 implementation of the program.

18                  (2)    In making the recommendations required under paragraph (1) of this  
19 subsection, the Commission shall consider the best interests of electric customers relating  
20 to the cost and reliability of electric service.

21                  (b)    On or before December 31, 2016, the Commission shall report its  
22 recommendations under subsection (a) of this section to the Senate Finance Committee and  
23 the House Economic Matters Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
24 Government Article.

25                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
26 1, 2016.