

# HOUSE BILL 1463

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By: **Delegates Glass, Carr, McDonough, McMillan, and Robinson**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2018

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Gas and Electricity – Analog, Digital, and Smart Meters – Meter Exchange and**  
3 **Transmission of Information**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring a utility company to exchange an analog, digital, or smart  
5 meter for another certain meter under certain circumstances; prohibiting a utility  
6 company from charging or penalizing a customer for taking certain actions; requiring  
7 that a certain utility customer have the opportunity to choose the frequency with  
8 which a certain meter transmits certain information; defining certain terms; and  
9 generally relating to utility service and analog, digital, and smart meters.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Public Utilities

12 Section 7–302.1

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Public Utilities**

18 **7–302.1.**

19 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
20 **INDICATED.**

21 **(2) “SMART METER” MEANS A DIGITAL METER THAT ALLOWS**  
22 **TWO–WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN A UTILITY CUSTOMER’S PREMISES AND A**  
23 **UTILITY COMPANY THROUGH A WIRELESS NETWORK AS A COMPONENT OF**  
24 **ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(3) “UTILITY COMPANY” MEANS:**

2                   **(I) AN ELECTRIC COMPANY;**

3                   **(II) A GAS COMPANY; OR**

4                   **(III) A GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY.**

5           **(4) “UTILITY CUSTOMER” MEANS A CUSTOMER OF A UTILITY**  
6 **COMPANY.**

7           **(B) (1) ON WRITTEN REQUEST FROM A UTILITY CUSTOMER AT ANY TIME,**  
8 **A UTILITY COMPANY SHALL EXCHANGE:**

9                   **(I) AN ANALOG METER FOR A DIGITAL METER OR A DIGITAL**  
10 **METER FOR AN ANALOG METER;**

11                   **(II) AN ANALOG METER FOR A SMART METER OR A SMART**  
12 **METER FOR AN ANALOG METER; OR**

13                   **(III) A DIGITAL METER FOR A SMART METER OR A SMART METER**  
14 **FOR A DIGITAL METER.**

15           **(2) A UTILITY COMPANY MAY NOT CHARGE OR PENALIZE A UTILITY**  
16 **CUSTOMER FOR REQUESTING AN EXCHANGE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
17 **SUBSECTION.**

18           **(C) A UTILITY CUSTOMER WITH A DIGITAL METER OR A SMART METER**  
19 **SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE WHETHER THE METER TRANSMITS**  
20 **INFORMATION TO A UTILITY COMPANY CONTINUOUSLY OR ONLY WHEN THE UTILITY**  
21 **COMPANY TRANSMITS A SIGNAL TO THE METER.**

22           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 October 1, 2018.