

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

Senate Bill 856
Finance

(Senator Hershey)

Economic Matters

Electric Companies - Billing Information

This bill requires an electric company, on request of a retail electricity customer, to provide the customer the historic usage and billing information for the customer's account for at least the 12 preceding months. The information must be made available to the customer in one of the following forms, as requested by the customer: (1) information accessible on the electric company's website; (2) information provided electronically in a searchable PDF format; or (3) a physical document sent to the customer at the customer's billing address.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Electric companies are not required to provide the specified information in the specified formats under State law. However, Public Service Commission regulations require electric companies to retain customer billing records for at least three years and specify information that must be included in customer bill forms, including:

- readings of all meters used for billing purposes at the end of the period for which the bill is rendered;
- the meter reading date;

- the applicable rate schedule, including any seasonal or time differential in base rates for the billing period in which the differential is applicable, or identification of the applicable rate schedule;
- information concerning the customer's electricity usage during the same billing period in the prior year; and
- the company's appropriate business address and telephone number for billing inquiries.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 886 of 2020, a similar bill, was voted favorable with amendments by the House Economic Matters Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: HB 842 (Delegate Howard) - Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission; Office of People's Counsel; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2021
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