

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 37

(Senator Hester, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Economic Matters

Electric Companies - Regional Transmission Organizations - Report (Utility Transparency and Accountability Act)

This bill requires each electric company, other than a municipal electric utility, to submit a report to the Public Service Commission (PSC) by February 1 each year containing information related to recent votes cast at a meeting of a regional transmission organization (RTO). The report must include (1) all recorded votes cast by the electric company, regardless of whether the vote is otherwise disclosed and (2) all votes cast by a State affiliate of the electric company if the electric company itself does not vote on the matter.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: PSC must supervise and regulate public service companies, which includes electric companies, subject to its jurisdiction to (1) ensure their operation in the interest of the public and (2) promote adequate, economical, and efficient delivery of utility services in the State without unjust discrimination. In doing so, PSC must consider the public safety, the economy of the State, the maintenance of fair and stable labor standards for affected workers, the conservation of natural resources, the preservation of environmental quality, the achievement of the State's climate commitments for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the protection of a public service company's infrastructure against

cybersecurity threats. PSC must also enforce compliance with legal requirements by public service companies.

State law does not require electric companies to be a member of an RTO, nor does it require that votes be disclosed.

Additional Comments: PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM) is the RTO for all or parts of 13 states plus the District of Columbia, including Maryland. Most electric companies in the State are members, including all investor-owned utilities. PJM members take part in PJM's stakeholder process, which provides a forum for those who have a stake in the wholesale electric industry to discuss and work through issues related to PJM markets, operations, public policies, and current and future industry matters. The process uses [committees](#), subcommittees, user groups, and task forces to conduct business. The Office of People's Counsel advises that some high-level votes are disclosed, but numerous lower-level committee and task force votes are not.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 682 and HB 505 of 2024 and HB 1186 of 2023.

Designated Cross File: HB 121 (Delegate Charkoudian) - Economic Matters.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 10, 2025
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