

HOUSE BILL 54

C5

6lr1564

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Allen**

Requested: October 31, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Restructuring Maryland's Electric Utility Industry**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Restructuring Maryland's Electric
4 Utility Industry to study and make recommendations on restructuring the State's
5 electric utility industry; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study
6 Restructuring Maryland's Electric Utility Industry.

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

8 That:

9 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Restructuring Maryland's Electric Utility
10 Industry.

11 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

12 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
13 the Senate;

14 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the
15 House;

16 (3) the Secretary of the Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

17 (4) the Secretary of Transportation, or the Secretary's designee;

18 (5) the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, or the Director's
19 designee;

20 (6) one member of the Public Service Commission, designated by the Chair
21 of the Public Service Commission;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(7) the Director of the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, or
the Director's designee;

3 (8) the People's Counsel, or the People's Counsel's designee;

4 (9) one representative of PJM Interconnection, LLC, designated by PJM
5 Interconnection, LLC;

6 (10) one representative of Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, designated
7 by Baltimore Gas and Electric Company;

(11) one representative of Constellation Energy Corporation, designated by
Constellation Energy Corporation;

(12) one representative of Potomac Electric Power Company, designated by
Potomac Electric Power Company;

12 (13) one representative of Potomac Edison, designated by Potomac Edison;

13 (14) one representative of Delmarva Power, designated by Delmarva Power;

(15) one representative of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, designated by Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative;

(16) one representative of Choptank Electric Cooperative, designated by
Choptank Electric Cooperative;

(17) one representative of an independent electricity generation company, designated by the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration;

20 (18) one representative of the Easton Utilities Commission, designated by
21 the Easton Utilities Commission;

22 (19) one representative of the Berlin Electric Utility, designated by the
23 Berlin Electric Utility;

24 (20) one representative of Thurmont Municipal Light Company, designated
25 by Thurmont Municipal Light Company;

26 (21) one representative of the Hagerstown Light Department, designated by
27 the Hagerstown Light Department;

28 (22) one representative of Williamsport Municipal Electric Light System,
29 designated by Williamsport Municipal Electric Light System;

(23) one representative of the Consumer Advocates of the PJM States, designated by the Consumer Advocates of the PJM States;

3 (24) two representatives of Maryland ratepayers, one appointed by the
4 President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House;

5 (25) one representative of the public with expertise in Maryland's electric
6 utility industry, appointed by the Governor; and

(26) two representatives of nonprofit organizations that focus on the electric utility industry, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the House.

10 (c) The Chair of the Public Service Commission shall designate the chair of the
11 Task Force.

12 (d) The Public Service Commission shall provide staff for the Task Force.

13 (e) A member of the Task Force:

14 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

15 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
16 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

17 (f) The Task Force shall:

(1) study options for restructuring Maryland's electric utility industry, such as publicly owned utilities, cooperatives, and public utility districts;

(2) evaluate options for improving or reducing electricity rates for Maryland ratepayers;

22 (3) assess strategies for ensuring that electric companies are more
23 responsive to the needs of ratepayers;

24 (4) examine alternative utility and governance models used in other states,
25 including Nebraska, Washington, and Oregon;

26 (5) compare electricity rates in the states examined under item (4) of this
27 subsection with electricity rates in Maryland;

(6) compare infrastructure investments and improvements made by publicly owned electric companies with infrastructure investments and improvements made by private electric companies;

4 (8) evaluate options for energy market participation, including withdrawal
5 from PJM Interconnection, LLC;

(9) estimate the potential costs and benefits to Maryland residents of transitioning to the options and models studied under this subsection;

8 (10) identify options for providing public review or approval of proposed
9 structural changes; and

10 (11) develop recommendations based on the findings under this subsection.

11 (g) On or before November 1, 2027, the Task Force shall report its findings and
12 recommendations to the General Assembly in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
13 Government Article.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
15 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2028,
16 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
17 of no further force and effect.