

# HOUSE BILL 521

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EMERGENCY BILL

6lr1912

HB 1535/25 – HRU

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By: **Delegates Chisholm, Anderson, Arentz, Arian, Fisher, Grammer, Griffith, Jacobs, Kipke, M. Morgan, T. Morgan, Nawrocki, Reilly, Schmidt, Szeliga, and Tomlinson**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

- 1 AN ACT concerning
- 2     **Electric Companies and Gas Companies – Customer Bill Surcharge – Repeal**
- 3     FOR the purpose of repealing on electric and gas bills a certain surcharge used to encourage
- 4         and promote the efficient use and conservation of energy in support of certain
- 5         greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and targets; and generally relating to
- 6         surcharges imposed on electric company and gas company customers.
- 7     BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 8         Article – Public Utilities
- 9         Section 7-222(d)
- 10         Annotated Code of Maryland
- 11         (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 12     BY repealing
- 13         Article – Public Utilities
- 14         Section 7-222(e)
- 15         Annotated Code of Maryland
- 16         (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 17     BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 18         Article – State Government
- 19         Section 9-20B-05(a)
- 20         Annotated Code of Maryland
- 21         (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)
- 22     BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 23         Article – State Government
- 24         Section 9-20B-05(f)(4)
- 25         Annotated Code of Maryland

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

3 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

4 **Article – Public Utilities**

5 7-222.

6 (d) The Commission shall encourage and promote the efficient use and  
7 conservation of energy in support of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and  
8 targets required under Title 2, Subtitle 12 of the Environment Article, established by the  
9 Commission under § 7-223(b) of this subtitle, and specified in § 7-224(a)(2) of this subtitle  
10 by:

11 (1) requiring each electric company and gas company to establish any  
12 program or service that the Commission determines to be appropriate and cost-effective;  
13 **AND**

14 (2) [adopting rate-making policies that provide, through a surcharge line  
15 item on customer bills:

16 (i) full cost recovery of reasonably incurred costs for programs and  
17 services established under item (1) of this subsection, including full recovery on a current  
18 basis on or before January 1, 2028;

19 (ii) on or before December 31, 2032, the elimination of any unpaid  
20 costs and unamortized costs that:

21 1. A. existed on December 31, 2024; or

22 B. were incurred before January 1, 2028; and

23 2. were accrued for the purpose of achieving statutory  
24 targets for annual incremental gross energy savings;

25 (iii) compensation for any unpaid costs and unamortized costs under  
26 item (ii) of this item at not more than each electric company's and each gas company's  
27 average cost of outstanding debt; and

28 (iv) reasonable financial performance incentives and penalties for  
29 investor-owned electric companies and gas companies, as appropriate; and

30 (3)] ensuring that adoption of electric customer choice under Subtitle 5 of  
31 this title and gas customer choice under Subtitle 6 of this title does not adversely impact  
32 these goals and targets.

1       [(e) The Commission shall, by regulation or order, require each electric company  
2 and each gas company subject to subsection (a) of this section that has submitted to the  
3 Commission, on or before July 1, 2024, a plan for achieving electricity or gas savings and  
4 demand reduction targets to disclose the following information in a form and format readily  
5 understandable to the average customer:

10 (2) the period of time that the surcharge will include excess charges to pay  
11 down the unpaid costs and unamortized costs.]

## Article – State Government

13 9-20B-05.

14 (a) There is a Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

15 (f) The Administration shall use the Fund:

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
20 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
21 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to  
22 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
23 enacted.