

HOUSE BILL 597

C5, L6

6lr1716

By: **Montgomery County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County – Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program –**
3 **Alterations**

4 **MC 17–26**

5 FOR the purpose of altering the beginning and ending dates for the Community Choice
6 Aggregation Pilot Program; altering the dates on which the Public Service
7 Commission must submit certain pilot program reports to the Governor and the
8 General Assembly; and generally relating to the Community Choice Aggregation
9 Pilot Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Public Utilities
12 Section 7–510.3(b) and (c)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Public Utilities
17 Section 7–510.3(t) and (u)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Public Utilities**

23 7–510.3.

24 (b) This section applies only in Montgomery County.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(c) (1) There is a Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program.

(2) Beginning December 31, 2023, a county may form a community choice aggregator under this section.

(t) (1) The pilot program shall:

(i) begin on the earlier of:

1. the date that a county gives notice to the Commission of its intention to initiate a process to form a community choice aggregator, in accordance with subsection (d)(1)(v) of this section; or

2. April 1, **[2024] 2026**; and

(ii) end **[7] 9** years after the beginning date, but not sooner than April 1, 2031.

(2) On or before April 1 of the **[sixth] SEVENTH** year after the beginning of the pilot program, the Commission shall, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, report to the General Assembly on the status and effectiveness of the pilot program.

(u) (1) At the conclusion of the pilot program described in this section, the Commission shall study:

(i) the overall costs and benefits of the pilot program;

(ii) whether there were any incremental costs borne by standard offer service customers resulting from the migration of customers between the community choice aggregator and standard offer service; and

(iii) what mechanisms could be implemented to hold standard offer service customers harmless from any incremental costs borne by standard offer service customers identified under item (ii) of this paragraph.

(2) The Commission shall seek the advice and recommendation of the Community Choice Energy Workgroup in the study required under this subsection.

(3) On or before December 31, **[2031] 2035**, the Commission shall report the findings of the study to the Governor and the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.