

HOUSE BILL 958

C5

6lr1130

By: **Delegates Buckel, Adams, Arentz, Chisholm, Ghrist, Griffith, Hartman, Hinebaugh, Hornberger, Miller, Rose, and Valentine**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Gas – Connection and Line Extension – Discounts and Payment Plans**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the Public Service Commission from adopting or enforcing
4 a regulation or order that prohibits a public service company from offering a discount
5 or payment plan for the connection or extension of a natural gas line to a customer's
6 property; and generally relating to natural gas distribution.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Public Utilities

9 Section 7–321

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Public Utilities**

15 **7–321.**

16 **THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ADOPT OR ENFORCE ANY REGULATION OR ORDER**
17 **THAT PROHIBITS A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY FROM OFFERING A DISCOUNT OR**
18 **PAYMENT PLAN FOR THE CONNECTION OR EXTENSION OF A NATURAL GAS LINE TO A**
19 **CUSTOMER'S PROPERTY.**

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

