

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 642 (Delegate J. Long, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Electric Companies - Service Outages and Rate Increases - Report on Customer Impact

This bill requires each electric company, by April 1 each year, to report to the Public Service Commission (PSC) geographic and demographic data on all customers impacted by service outages and rate increases for the immediately preceding year. With respect to service outages, the report must include geographic and demographic data on all customers impacted by (1) a service outage lasting two hours or longer; (2) a service outage for scheduled maintenance, regardless of duration; and (3) each service outage, regardless of duration, occurring during an inclement weather event, including the amount of time until service was restored.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government finances or operations. It is assumed that municipal electric utilities can report to PSC using existing resources. The five municipal electric utilities are located in Berlin (Worcester County), Easton (Talbot County), Hagerstown (Washington County), Thurmont (Frederick County), and Williamsport (Washington County).

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.

Annual Performance Reports

By April 1 each year, each electric company must submit to PSC an annual performance report that summarizes the actual electric service reliability results for the preceding year. Among other requirements, the annual performance report must include information PSC determines necessary to assess the electric company's efforts to maintain reliable electric service to all customers in the electric company's service territory, including:

- the number of outages by outage type and cause;
- the total number of customers that experienced an outage;
- the total customer minutes of outage time; and
- to the extent practicable, a breakdown, by the number of days each customer was without electric service, of the number of customers that experienced an outage.

Additional Comments: The annual performance reports submitted by electric companies are published on PSC's [website](#).

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

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jg/lgc

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