



An Exelon Company

Position Statement

OPPOSE
Economic Matters Committee
02/04/2021

HB 397 Electricity and Gas – Energy Suppliers – Supply Offers

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) opposes, unless amended, *House Bill 397 Electricity and Gas – Energy Suppliers – Supply Offers*. House Bill 397 requires the Public Service Commission (Commission) to establish a process to approve supply offers for gas and electricity, below the standard offer service rate, for households receiving energy assistance that would be administered by the Office of Home Energy Programs. It prohibits suppliers from offering to provide electricity or gas to households in the State on energy assistance during the previous fiscal year. It also requires the Commission to create test cases for new enrollments that would be required to be run through each utility’s billing and enrollment system on a quarterly basis to verify that suppliers on the approved list are correctly charging households that receive energy assistance.

While the intent of the legislation appears to be an effort to address retail choice consumer protection and provide transparency in contract pricing specific to energy assistance customers, BGE has a specific concern regarding a section of the bill that would require quarterly test cases using the utility’s billing and enrollment system. The bill suggests that these test cases will be run to verify if the prices charged by third party suppliers are equal to or below the standard offer service price for customers on energy assistance. The bill would require that the utility provide this information without awareness if such a requirement is actually feasible.

Currently, third-party suppliers generally provide BGE with customer “bill ready” information, which includes the total bill amount assessed to the customer. BGE does not have access to the individual detailed rate data that would be required to obtain the information sought by this bill. Therefore, it is not feasible for the utility to collect and report on this information. The responsibility of providing this supplier rate information should be placed on the supplier offering the rate rather than the utility.

For these reasons, unless Section E of the bill be stricken in its entirety, BGE respectfully requests an unfavorable report by the Committee on this legislation.