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112 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-269-7115

OPPOSE - House Bill 397
HB397 - Electricity and Gas – Energy Suppliers – Supply Offers

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) oppose unless amended **House Bill 397 Electricity and Gas – Energy Suppliers – Supply Offers**. House Bill 397 requires the Public Service Commission (Commission) to establish an administrative process to approve supply offers for electricity or gas for households in the State that receive energy assistance through the Office of Home Energy Programs and places additional requirements around third party offers to households who receive energy assistance. The bill also requires that the Commission create test cases for new enrollments that shall be run through utilities billing and enrollment system on a quarterly basis to verify that suppliers on the approved list are correctly charging households that receive energy assistance.

Pepco and Delmarva Power support transparency in pricing and contract terms and note that COMAR includes provisions dedicated to consumer protection. House Bill 397 is seeking information regarding rates charged by third-party suppliers. House Bill 397 would require a quarterly report for test cases for new enrollments that includes information on what the Standard Offer of Service price is and verifying whether a third-party supplier is charging a price that is equal or below what the SOS price is. All of the information required by House Bill 397 for test cases for new enrollments can and should be obtained from the third-party supplier offering the rate.

Pepco and Delmarva Power are unable to comply with the last requirement of the bill—that is to verify that third party suppliers are meeting the requirements of the bill based upon how they are charging customers. Third-party suppliers serving in the Pepco and Delmarva Power service territory provide us with what we term “bill ready” information. “Bill-ready” information does not provide the underlying rates that comprise the amount on the bill—and instead only provides the total bill amount. We are unable to comply with section (E) of the bill because third party residential suppliers provide the utilities with “rate-ready” data information. Changes to the billing system for Pepco and Delmarva Power are required to implement “rate-ready” billing.

For the above reasons, Pepco and Delmarva Power oppose House Bill 397 unless Subsection (E) requiring utilities to verify information for test cases identified by the Commission for new enrollments is stricken from the bill.

Contact:

Katie Lanzarotto
Senior Legislative Specialist
202-428-1309
Kathryn.lanzarotto@exeloncorp.com

Ivan K. Lanier
State Affairs Manager
202-428-1288
Ivan.Lanier@pepco.com