



An Exelon Company



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Informational - House Bill 581
HB 581 - Labor and Employment – Employment Standards During an Emergency
(Maryland Essential Workers' Protection Act)

House Bill 581 requires the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange to provide for a special enrollment period for health insurance coverage for essential workers during emergencies. The bill also requires an essential employer to give a written statement regarding hazard pay paid to essential workers at various intervals. In addition, the bill requires the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and a local organization of emergency services to periodically evaluate and determine whether an emergency is occurring or has occurred and requires an essential employer to take actions related to occupational safety and health during an emergency.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected Maryland's essential workers, placing them squarely on the frontlines across many sectors of the workforce. Pepco and Delmarva Power took many steps to ensure the safety and well-being of employees who were needed in the field to maintain our electric infrastructure and continue to bring our customers safe and reliable service. However, House Bill 581's breadth and scope should be narrowed and clarification of the provisions that remain will be essential to ensure employers can comply with the requirements of the bill. Pepco and Delmarva Power are aware that several parties are in opposition to this legislation and we welcome the opportunity to be a part of a larger workgroup discussion, with all relevant stakeholders, to address our concerns with the legislation.

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