

STATE OF MARYLAND
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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 856
Electric Companies – Billing Information

COMMITTEE: Finance

HEARING DATE: March 9, 2021

SPONSOR: Senator Hershey

POSITION: Support with amendments

The Office of People’s Counsel (OPC) supports Senate Bill 856 with amendments. Senate Bill 856 would require electric companies to provide historic usage and billing information to a customer upon the customer’s request. The bill requires companies to provide the information in one of three forms, as requested by the customer: (1) on the utility website, (2) electronically in a searchable PDF format, or (3) as a physical document sent to the customer’s billing address.

The bill enables customers to obtain valuable information that they can use to make decisions about their electric service – for example, investments in energy efficiency, distributed generation, and the selection of a supplier. The usage and billing information assists customers in making more informed decisions.

As drafted, the bill applies to all electric companies in the State, including small electric cooperatives and municipal utilities. We understand that not all of these smaller electric companies have the systems in place to provide the required information in all three forms that the bill requires. To prevent unnecessary expenditures by these utilities, we recommend that the bill exempt cooperative and municipal utilities from the requirement to provide this information in the form requested by the customer.

Office of People's Counsel Testimony on SB 856

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Recommendation: The Office of People's Counsel respectfully requests a FAVORABLE REPORT, with the amendment suggested above, on Senate Bill 856.