



An Exelon Company

Position Statement

SUPPORT with Amendment
Economic Matters
01/20/2022

House Bill 138 Department of Human Services – Electric Universal Service Program – Eligibility

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) supports with an amendment *House Bill 138 Department of Human Services – Electric Universal Service Program – Eligibility*. House Bill 138 would require the state to authorize benefits for the Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP) to applicants who do not meet the eligibility criteria of the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which is administered in Maryland as the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP).

BGE supports the intent of the bill to support additional limited income customers with EUSP benefits. BGE generally supports efforts to make society and its benefits more diverse and inclusive. This bill aligns with these values by removing the barrier to assistance benefits on the basis of citizenship.

However, the bill as currently drafted is overly broad and would conceivably allow any customer, including those who do not meet income requirements, to receive EUSP benefits. BGE recommends the following clarifying amendment to make clear that income eligibility requirements must be met.

On page 2, line 18, after (III) and before “THE” insert:

“PROVIDED THAT THE ELECTRIC CUSTOMER MEETS THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS IN (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION,”

For reference, PUA Section 7–512.1 provides:

(a) (1) The Commission shall establish an electric universal service program to assist electric customers with annual incomes:

- (i) at or below 175% of the federal poverty level; or
- (ii) for a customer at least 67 years of age, at or below 200% of the 20 federal poverty level.

With this important clarifying amendment, BGE respectfully request that the Committee issue a favorable vote on this legislation.