



February 10, 2022

112 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

**FAVORABLE - House Bill 696
Public Utilities –Electric School Bus Pilot Program**

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) support **House Bill 696 Public Utilities – Electric School Bus Pilot Program**. House Bill 696 would establish the Zero Emission School Bus Pilot Program beginning in October 2024 for a period of three to five years for the deployment of not less than 25 electric school buses with rebates that do not exceed \$50 million. The bill also permits investor owned utilities to utilize the storage batteries of the electric school buses in order to access the stored electricity through vehicle to grid technology when the school buses are not in use. Furthermore, it allows the investor owned electric utility to deploy, own and operate electric charging infrastructure capable of supporting vehicle to grid operations in order to meet the charging requirements to support electric school buses deployed in the program.

In July 2020, Maryland signed a Memorandum of Understand (MOU) with 15 states and the District of Columbia in a commitment to phase out fossil fuel-burning medium to heavy duty truck and bus sales by 100% by 2050, with a target for 30% of new truck and bus sales to be zero-emission by 2030.¹ As part of this process, Maryland is working with stakeholders to develop both a regional and Maryland specific action plan that will outline how the state and the region will achieve the goals of the MOU. Electric vehicle deployment contributes to many of the state’s environmental and transportation goals and deployment on school buses is among the most obvious platforms to advance the technology as these buses are usually located in centralized fleet locations where charging infrastructure can be effectively installed.

Encouraging the expansion of public-school transit EV options is critically important because transportation is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Maryland. For the above reasons Pepco and Delmarva Power support respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 696.

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¹ [Multistate-Truck-ZEV-MOU-Media-Release-20200714 \(2\).pdf \(maryland.gov\)](#)