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**FAVORABLE – Senate Bill 283**  
**Department of Human Services – Electric Universal Service Program - Eligibility**

Senate Bill 283 requires the Department of Human Services to authorize benefits under the electric universal service program for a low income electric customer who does not meet the eligibility requirements for the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Pepco and Delmarva understand that the bill language will be clarified to apply only to low income customers.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected customers and communities across our service areas. Because of this, Pepco and Delmarva Power have taken extensive steps since March of 2020 to assist customers, including temporarily suspending service disconnections, waiving late fees, reconnecting customers who lost service prior to the pandemic, where safe to do so, offering extended payment plans, and enhancing outreach and engagement to customers regarding energy assistance options available from the companies as well as state, local and non-profit organizations. Senate Bill 283 will expand assistance to low income customers during the pandemic and beyond.

Expanding energy assistance to the most vulnerable populations in the state will help keep customers connected and Pepco and Delmarva Power support that approach. For the above reasons Pepco and Delmarva Power support Senate Bill 283 and respectfully request a favorable committee report.

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