



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE PAM QUEEN
HB 630 – Public Utilities – Primary and Secondary Account Holders –
Domestic Violence Protection
SUPPORT

Greetings Chair C.T. Wilson, Vice-Chair Brian Crosby, and members of the Economic Matters Committee:

HB 630 will enable victims of domestic violence with a court order to be removed from and not financially responsible for a shared utility contract or agreement without penalty, fee, or assessment.

This bill outlines that a utility company shall make information about the options and process for domestic violence to be removed from a shared utility contract or agreement in a public-facing customer communication section. Also, the utility company must outline a process for confidentiality in the treatment, storage, and disposal of information for domestic violence victims.

This bill will enable victims of domestic violence to have a fresh start as they safely end a traumatic period of their life.

While each utility company will have different methods to address changes in account names, the intent of this bill must be consistent. Domestic violence victims must not be reluctant to seek a safe domicile because of the possibility of lingering utility debt.

We all can agree that HB 630 is an important bill to protect victims of domestic violence in Maryland. I seek a favorable recommendation for HB 630.