



February 16, 2023

112 West Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

FAVORABLE - House Bill 323 - Social Services Programs - Eligibility and Enrollment

Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power & Light Company (Delmarva Power) support **House Bill 323- Social Services Programs- Eligibility and Enrollment.** As it relates to electric companies, House Bill 323 alters the eligibility requirements for the electric universal service program (EUSP) to 200% of the federal poverty limit for all program applications.

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. House Bill 323 will streamline the application process for low-income customers by keeping the categorical eligibility for the EUSP program consistent with other programs customers apply for.

Streamlining the categorical eligibility for the EUSP program application process will be extremely helpful to vulnerable populations in the state and keep customers connected. For the reasons stated above, Pepco and Delmarva Power respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 323.

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