

Support

Education, Energy, and
Environment

3/28/2023

**House Bill 630- Public Utilities - Primary and Secondary Account Holders - Domestic
Violence Protections**

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) supports House *Bill 630 - Public Utilities - Primary and Secondary Account Holders - Domestic Violence Protections*, a bill that requires the utility companies to release a victim of domestic violence from a utility contract.

BGE acknowledges the pernicious effects of domestic violence and the challenges that survivors face in extricating themselves from abusive homes. We salute the sponsor for proposing measures that will reduce the financial and logistical burdens that survivors face in escaping their abusers.

BGE had concerns that the legislation as introduced would incentivize fraud by debtors seeking to avoid paying past due amounts. However, as amended, the legislation has safeguards that make clear that a new account can be opened at a new premise notwithstanding debt from a previous premise.

BGE commends the sponsor and members of the General Assembly for considering the circumstances of domestic violence victims and working to help them escape to safety and security. As one of Maryland's largest utilities and largest employers, we are committed to being a part of that conversation.

For these reasons, BGE strongly supports House Bill 630 and urges a favorable Committee report.

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.2 million electric customers and more than 655,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company's approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's leading competitive energy provider.