



# The Distributed Renewable Integration and Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) Act

SB959 Feldman

HB1256 Fraser-Hidalgo

**Innovation and consumer empowerment to create a more affordable, reliable, and cleaner electric grid**



- \* The DRIVE Act will create an open-access platform for aggregating and compensating consumer-facing advanced energy systems for their help in managing the electric grid.
- \* Advanced energy systems, aka Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) can be solar, battery storage, electric vehicles (EVs), smart appliances, and building energy management software.
- \* **Build off of the PSC's successful time-of-use (TOU) electric rate pilot program**
  - \* Pilot found that consumers across all income groups saw reductions in both their on-peak electric demand and their total monthly bill using TOU rates
  - \* DRIVE Act requires the utilities to transition their customers to TOU rates by 2028
- \* **Create beneficial electrification programs, where consumer-facing advanced energy systems (ie. residential solar + storage + EV)**
  - \* New commission programs would create “virtual power plants” which allow a group of DERs to act together and relieve grid strain at critical times
  - \* Virtual Power Plants are being championed by the U.S. Department of Energy as low cost alternatives to traditional utility resources with the same or greater community benefits
  - \* DERs would be compensated for reducing local electric demand and/or injecting power into the grid when needed.
- \* **Harness the power of EVs to power homes and reduce grid strain**
  - \* An EV can serve as a home battery back-up and be help the grid if it has a bi-directional electric charger (energy can flow both ways)
  - \* DRIVE Act would require the PSC to streamline the process for bi-directional EV charging
- \* **With active community participation in controlling the electric grid, Maryland can achieve its clean energy goals, reduce fossil fuel consumption, and provide consumers with improved energy resilience in the face of extreme weather and an increasingly volatile climate future.**

Have  
questions?

Robin K. Dutta  
robin@chessa.org

Executive Director  
Chesapeake Solar and Storage Association (CHESSA)