



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

JENNIFER AIOSA
Director of Government Affairs

AMANDA KONTZ CARR
Legislative Officer

WILLIAM J. THORNE
Legislative Associate

BILL NO.: HB 267

TITLE: Electricity and Gas – Retail Supply – Regulation and Consumer Protection

SPONSOR: Delegate Crosby

COMMITTEE: Economic Matters

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

DATE: February 15, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** House Bill 267 – Electricity and Gas – Retail Supply – Regulation and Consumer Protection. This bill requires that any salesperson offering or selling electricity or natural gas supply agreements to consumers in Maryland must have an energy salesperson license. The legislation also restricts an electricity supplier to offering electricity only at a price that does not exceed the trailing 12-month average of the electricity company's standard offer service rate, and on or after January 1, 2025, an electricity supplier must purchase Renewable Energy Credits in the PJM region.

HB 267 is designed to protect Maryland energy consumers from predatory energy salespersons that have proliferated in Maryland's deregulated energy market. Under the guise of "consumer choice" these energy suppliers often target lower income communities with energy rates lower than the Standard Offer rate of their local utility, without highlighting terms that often include excessive rate jumps after a low introductory period. This legislation will require greater transparency and accountability of energy suppliers wanting to do business in Maryland, creating fairness in competition in Maryland's deregulated energy market, and ultimately protecting consumers. Baltimore County requests an amendment that exempts providers of energy choice to commercial businesses, government, and institutional customers.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on HB 267 from the House Economic Matters Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.