

BRIAN CROSBY
Legislative District 29B
St. Mary's County

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Vice Chair
Economic Matters Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 231
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3227 · 301-858-3227
800-492-7122 Ext. 3227
Brian.Crosby@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 1393: Electric System Planning - Scope and Funding

Position: FAV

February 29, 2024

Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and my esteemed colleagues on the Economic Matters Committee. I am Vice Chair Delegate Crosby, here to present to you HB 1393: Electric System Planning - Scope and Funding.

This bill will modify an existing requirement that the Public Service Commission submit an annual report. This report will be required to include the current status of projects designed to promote several extant goals, plus modifying a goal to provide additional capacity to accommodate increased distributed renewable electricity generation in connection with electric transmission and distribution system modernization.

The bill also states that the General Assembly strongly encourages electric companies to diligently pursue federal funds to meet our goals for the electric system, including funds made available under the Federal Inflation Reduction Act. It also requires the Maryland Energy Administration to identify funding sources that may be available to electric companies under the Federal Inflation Reduction Act. Companies will be required to report quarterly, and the Commission will be required to adopt regulations mandating that electric companies apply for funding, and in order to ensure that least-cost debt is used. The Commission will also be required to adopt regulations mandating the investment in demand-side methods and technology to improve reliability and efficiency, including virtual power plants. Existing labor standards will also apply to projects that make use of Federal Inflation Reduction Act funds.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. I respectfully request a favorable report.