



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

SB 1

DATE: March 26, 2024

SPONSOR: Senator Augustine

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters Committee

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Favorable (Department of Environmental Protection)

Electricity and Gas - Retail Supply - Regulation and Consumer Protection

This legislation will provide important consumer protection reform to help lower energy bills for many Maryland families.

This bill would strengthen requirements applicable to the licensing, training, sales tactics, and services of retail energy companies and salespeople working on their behalf in service to residential customers. It would also enhance the tools available to the Public Service Commission to educate consumers to help protect them from misleading marketing, and to address non-compliant retail supplier practices.

Most importantly, this bill would establish a rate cap for residential retail energy supply, with exceptions for qualifying green power offerings. This change has the potential to significantly benefit Maryland households. Retail suppliers have particularly targeted their marketing to low-income households, convincing many to sign up for energy service contracts that have ended up costing them far more than they would have paid for standard offer service.

We respectfully request that the Economic Matters Committee give Senate Bill 1 a favorable report.