

BY: Delegate Chisholm
(To be offered in the Economic Matters Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1315
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike in their entirety lines 2 through 4, inclusive, and substitute:

“Task Force to Study the Premature Retirement of Electricity Generation Facilities”;

strike beginning with “requiring” in line 5 down through “facility” in line 11 and substitute “establishing the Task Force to Study the Premature Retirement of Electricity Generation Facilities; and generally relating to the Task Force to study the Premature Retirement of Electricity Generation Facilities”; and strike in their entirety lines 12 through 16, inclusive; in line 18, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On pages 1 through 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 19 on page 1 through line 20 on page 3, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) There is a Task Force to Study the Premature Retirement of Electricity Generation Facilities.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Secretary of Environment, or the Secretary's designee;

and (4) the Chair of the Public Service Commission, or the Chair's designee;

(5) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

(i) one representative of PJM Interconnection;

(ii) one representative of the Independent Market Monitor for the PJM Region;

(iii) one representative of the ReliabilityFirst Corporation;

(iv) one individual with professional expertise in the traditional power generation industry; and

(v) one individual with professional expertise in the renewable energy industry.

(c) The Chair of the Public Service Commission shall serve as the chair of the Task Force.

(d) The Public Service Commission shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) (i) assess the cost savings for customers that results from the retirement of electricity generating facilities;

(ii) evaluate the impact that the premature retirement of electricity generation facilities has on the reliable energy supply for customers;

(iii) evaluate the environmental impact of the premature retirement of electricity generation facilities including consideration of habitat disruption, wildlife impact, watershed stress, and ecological harm;

(iv) examine potential nationwide consequences of shortages in reliable or dispatchable electricity if a Maryland electricity generating facility retires prematurely;

(v) examine the economic challenges faced by electricity generating companies, which have led to premature retirement electricity generating facilities, and evaluate potential mitigations to sustain their operations; and

(vi) facilitate collaboration among stakeholders, including utilities, environmental advocacy groups, energy consumers, and industry representatives;

(vii) conduct an infrastructure transition analysis that ensures that infrastructure developments align with the practical needs of electricity generating companies; and

(2) make recommendations:

(i) to address challenges and enhance decision-making regarding the premature retirement of electricity generation facilities; and

(ii) that include energy reliability solutions that address the imminent energy reliability gap and balance the need between economic considerations and the State's commitment to cleaner energy goals.

(g) The study and recommendations required under subsection (f) of this section are for informational purposes only and do not provide any additional regulatory authority to the Public Service Commission.

(g) On or before January 1, 2025, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, and the House Economic Matters Committee.”

(Over)

On page 3, in line 22, strike “October 1, 2024” and substitute “July 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.