



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB1315 seeks to address and curb potential energy reliability gaps and ensure continuous power supply are critical considerations. The proposed amendment to HB1315, "Keep the Lights on Act," focuses on conducting a thorough study by the Public Service Commission (PSC), aligning the need to understand the multifaceted impact of potential power plant retirements without granting regulatory authority to the PSC.

The study's findings, reported to the Governor, Maryland General Assembly, Senate EEE and House Economic Matters Committee, will provide essential insights into the implications to the market with any legislation being considered. The involvement of stakeholders including Talen, PJM, Reliability First, Utility Regulators, and various government officials demonstrates a holistic approach.

The study will address concerns related to the premature retirement of power plants and the potential for extensive power failures and rolling brownouts. It will assess cost savings, reliable energy supply, and environmental considerations, providing informed recommendations crucial for ensuring sustainable and reliable energy in Maryland. The diverse roles of legislative appointees, PJM, regulatory bodies, environmental representatives, and industry experts will contribute to comprehensive decision-making.

Ultimately, the study's comprehensive perspective and collaboration among stakeholders will play a vital role in addressing energy challenges and making well-informed decisions for a sustainable and reliable energy future in Maryland.

For background, consider the events of the past few years:

- **2020:** Talen Energy embraces eco-friendly practices, abandoning coal like an outdated trend. Pledging to shut down plants, including the Brandon Shores Power Plant, renowned for its high energy output, by 2025, promoting sustainability over convenience. Farewell, reliable energy; welcome... looming power shortages?
- **2022:** Maryland General Assembly passes the Climate Solutions Act. The new mantra is achieving net-zero emissions by 2045. So, as we usher in the era of modern, sustainable energy, let's not forget one important ingredient: a plan that ensures the lights stay on.
- **2023:** FERC's Mark Christie issues a warning of potential & voltage collapse. Prepare for possible energy shortages, Maryland, as challenges arise. Will essential services be affected?
- **2025:** The proposal (drum roll, please): Sourcing power from Pennsylvania, at a cost of \$800 million dollars for the needed infrastructure and an anticipated completion date of 2028. Best case scenario is we only have unreliable energy for 3 years?
- **2026 & Beyond:** Maryland contemplates its energy policies, reflecting on past decisions and future implications. Prepare for a potentially challenging journey ahead for power reliability.

Study's Objectives:

1. **Cost Savings Assessment:** Evaluate cost savings for customers resulting from power plant retirements.
2. **Reliable Energy Supply:** Ensure premature retirement doesn't compromise reliable energy supply for customers.
3. **Electric Service Availability:** Maintain the availability and reliability of electric service to customers served by the facility.
4. **Environmental Impact Evaluation:** Examine ecological impact, considering habitat disruption, wildlife, watershed stress, and ecological harm.

5. **Nationwide Consequences Assessment:** Evaluate potential nationwide consequences of shortages in reliable or dispatchable electricity if a Maryland facility retires prematurely.
6. **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Facilitate collaboration among utilities, environmental advocacy groups, energy consumers, and industry representatives.
7. **Challenges Recommendations:** Generate recommendations based on study findings to address challenges associated with premature retirements.
8. **Non-Regulatory Nature Emphasis:** Emphasize that the study doesn't grant regulatory authority to the PSC over electricity generation facilities; it is for informative purposes.
9. **Energy Reliability Solutions:** Develop recommendations to address the imminent energy reliability gap, striking a balance between economic considerations and the state's commitment to cleaner energy goals.
10. **Assessing Economic Impact:** Examine the economic challenges faced by electric generating companies, which have led to premature power plant retirements, and evaluate potential mitigations to sustain their operations.
11. **Infrastructure Transition Analysis:** To ensure that infrastructure developments align with the practical needs of electric generating companies.
12. **Timely and Comprehensive Reporting:** Provide a timely and comprehensive report on the study's outcomes and recommendations to the Governor, Maryland General Assembly, the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, and the House Economic Matters Committee.

Stakeholders:

1. **Speaker of the House Appointee (1):**
 - o One member of the House of Delegates and customer representation.
2. **Senate President Appointee (1):**
 - o One member of the Senate of Maryland and customer representation.
3. **PJM Member (1):**
 - o Contributing expertise in grid reliability and nationwide consequences.
4. **Public Service Commission Member (1):**
 - o Providing regulatory insights and oversight.
5. **Independent Market Monitor Member (1):**
 - o Offering unbiased perspectives on market dynamics.
6. **Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Member (1):**
 - o Overseeing environmental concerns and impacts.
7. **ReliabilityFirst Member (1):**
 - o Contributing insights on grid reliability and resilience.
8. **Traditional Power Generation Expert (1):**
 - o Providing industry-specific expertise in traditional power generation.
9. **Renewable Energy Industry Expert (1):**
 - o Contributing industry-specific insights from the renewable energy sector.

I take my job as a State Legislator very seriously and my core drive is anchored in the belief that my prime responsibility is to **inform, educate, and protect** those that I represent. Highlighting the importance of dependable electricity for society's well-being and expressing concern about potential sharp rate increases demonstrates our understanding of the urgency of the situation and the need for proactive planning.

This approach ensures that the study and subsequent recommendations are robust, representative, and well-informed, thereby serving the best interests of the community and the state. Our dedication to this cause and the thoroughness of your business plan makes a compelling case for support and investment.

Sincerely,

Brian Chisholm

Delegate Brian Chisholm