

MALCOLM AUGUSTINE
Legislative District 47
Prince George's County

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Executive Nominations Committee

Education, Energy and the
Environment Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 25, 2024

Senate Bill 1 - Electricity and Gas – Retail Supply – Regulation and Consumer Protection

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **Senate Bill 1 - Electricity and Gas – Retail Supply – Regulation and Consumer Protection**, which aims to establish an energy salesperson license for individuals involved in offering or selling electricity supply agreements or gas supply agreements to customers in the State of Maryland. This legislation addresses critical aspects of retail energy supply and consumer protection.

The primary purpose of Senate Bill 1 is to regulate and license individuals involved in selling electricity and gas supply agreements to consumers within the state. The bill outlines terms for electricity supplier, energy salesperson, and gas supplier licenses issued by the Public Service Commission (PSC). By establishing licensing and renewal requirements, the bill seeks to ensure that only qualified individuals engage in these transactions, promoting transparency and consumer confidence. The bill outlines specific criteria and requirements for obtaining and renewing electricity supplier, energy salesperson, and gas supplier licenses. This ensures that individuals engaged in selling energy supply agreements possess the necessary qualifications and adhere to standards set by the PSC.

To safeguard consumer interests, Senate Bill 1 grants the PSC the authority to take disciplinary actions against electricity suppliers, gas suppliers, and energy salespersons for certain acts. The bill also establishes civil penalties for violations, with revised amounts that are commensurate with the gravity of the offense. This bill also provides pricing oversight on the rates that retail suppliers may charge their customers. The inclusion of provisions related to green power is of priority as requiring electricity suppliers to purchase renewable energy credits in excess of the renewable energy portfolio standard demonstrates a commitment to promoting sustainable energy practices and environmental responsibility.

Several safeguards, including the customer's entitlement to request and receive a replacement number, the provision of monthly reports on customer choice by electric companies, and improved disclosures for electricity suppliers marketing and selling green power to residential customers, play a crucial role as we gather today to make well-informed decisions on behalf of our constituents.

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Our intent to establish a division within the Commission is a positive step towards specialized oversight. This division can play a crucial role in ensuring effective regulation and enforcement of the proposed licensing framework. Additionally, it is the goal of the Commission to impose special assessments on certain persons, providing necessary funds for enforcement and oversight. The provision for expenditures in accordance with an approved budget amendment ensures transparency and accountability in resource allocation.

In conclusion, Senate Bill 1 represents a comprehensive approach to enhancing consumer protection and ensuring the integrity of retail energy supply in the State of Maryland. I express my support for this initiative and urge fellow lawmakers to consider the positive impact it will have on consumers, industry participants, and the overall energy market.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I urge the committee to give a **favorable** report for **Senate Bill 1 - Electricity and Gas – Retail Supply – Regulation and Consumer Protection**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Malcolm Augustine".

Senator Malcolm Augustine

Dept. of Energy [EIA861](#)* reports by state all suppliers' revenues, MegaWatt Hours and Customer Counts.

<i>Market Share</i>	Parent Company	Company Name	Customer Count	Avg Rate / kWh	% +/- SOS	Extra Each Family Paid Above SOS
		Regulated MD SOS 2022 Rate	1,970,755	\$0.080		\$0
		Retail Suppliers:				
1		Constellation	80,612	\$0.090	12%	\$175
2	NRG	Direct Energy Services	23,382	\$0.118	47%	\$419
2	NRG	NRG / Reliant	21,601	\$0.141	76%	\$697
2	NRG	XOOM	9,573	\$0.145	81%	\$710
2	NRG	Stream Energy	4,152	\$0.154	92%	\$857
2	NRG	Energy Plus Hold	2,022	\$0.147	83%	\$736
2	NRG	Green Mountain En.	<u>2,682</u>	<u>\$0.155</u>	<u>93%</u>	<u>\$776</u>
		NRG portfolio -->>	63,412	\$0.135	68%	\$611
3	Shell Oil	Inspire Energy	34,958	\$0.125	56%	\$470
4	Alta	WGL Energy	33,842	\$0.100	24%	\$196
5	Private	CleanChoice Energy	27,191	\$0.189	136%	\$999
6	Vistra	Ambit	8,199	\$0.102	27%	\$265
6	Vistra	MDGE- Energy Services	7,714	\$0.147	84%	\$663
6	Vistra	Public Power	2,870	\$0.115	44%	\$745
6	Vistra	Viridian	<u>1,985</u>	<u>\$0.155</u>	<u>93%</u>	<u>\$819</u>
	<i>Now owns Energy Harbor 3/23</i>	Vistra portfolio -->>	20,768	\$0.123	53%	\$532

7	Commerce	Just Energy	15,517	\$0.118	47%	\$397
8		SFE	10,640	\$0.118	47%	\$356
9	Via Renewable	Spark Energy	2,279	\$0.167	108%	\$842
9	Via	National Gas & E	1,272	\$0.171	113%	\$967
9	Via	Major Energy	3,252	\$0.146	82%	\$714
9	Via	Starion Energy	24	\$0.064	-20%	-\$9
		VIA/ Sparkportfolio -->>	6,827	\$0.157	96%	\$801
10		CleanSky/Titan	6,575	\$0.120	49%	\$488
11		SmartEnergy	5,848	\$0.169	110%	\$876
12		IDT Energy, Inc.	5,364	\$0.174	118%	\$791
13		MPower Energy NJ LLC	5,029	\$0.171	114%	\$567
14		Tomorrow Energy Corp.	4,907	\$0.168	109%	\$924
15		Indra (was Palmco)	3,932	\$0.239	198%	\$1,061
16		Clearview Electric Inc.	3,817	\$0.156	95%	\$885
17		Statewise	3,751	\$0.119	49%	\$387
18		Greenlight Energy Inc.	3,496	\$0.158	97%	\$776
19		Star Energy Partners	3,189	\$0.116	44%	\$246
20		Energy Harbor Corp.	2,321	\$0.083	4%	\$42
21		Eligo Energy, LLC	2,309	\$0.175	118%	\$1,078
22		RPA Energy, Inc.	2,261	\$0.197	146%	\$794
23		Rushmore	2,242	\$0.111	39%	\$297
24		Park Power LLC	2,046	\$0.141	76%	\$466
25		AEP Energy	1,855	\$0.090	13%	\$151
26		North American Power	1,725	\$0.151	89%	\$899
27		IGS	1,696	\$0.132	65%	\$449
28		Alpha G&E	1,587	\$0.130	62%	\$404
29		Great American	1,471	\$0.104	30%	\$239
30		Spring Energy RRH	1,352	\$0.185	130%	\$997
31		Josco Energy	1,309	\$0.165	105%	\$597
		All Retail Suppliers	368,589	\$0.120	50%	\$483

Red Bold is Premium Above
\$500 / account

Green Bold is "Renewable"
company