

UNFAVORABLE – House Bill 651
HB651 – Public Service Commission (PSC) – Membership -alterations
Economic Matters Committee
Thursday, February 20, 2025

Greetings Chairman C.T. Wilson, Vice Chairman Brian Crosby and members of the Economic Matters Committee

I have testified before the PSC since 2010. We have about 5 million citizens in Maryland which is pretty small as states go in the United States. Currently, the PSC has been operating for the past year with only 4 commissioners and they have handled their workload.

Expanding the number of commissioners to set up districts for this small state does not make sense. In fact based on my experience in Howard County (County) with District representation, this District representation is counter productive. District representatives do not look at the wider needs of our County and only look at their District.

Based on the number of issues that require review and approval in Maryland that are energy related as a result of the Climate Solutions Now Act, these monies would be better spent in beefing up PSC staff support so that there is better oversight of Maryland's 5 utilities. I see the utilities slow walking the needed transition to grid edge based energy generation as required in Public Conference 44 – Transforming the Grid, adopted in 2016.

I ask that the committee report out the bill Unfavorably.

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