

BILL NUMBER: **HB 1218**
Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task
Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland

COMMITTEE: **Economic Matters**

HEARING DATE: **February 21, 2025**

SPONSOR: **Delegates Buckel, Griffith, Mangione, Miller, Pippy, Reilly,**
and Tomlinson

POSITION: **Favorable**

Chair C. T. Wilson, Vice Chair Brian M. Crosby and Members of the Committee,

As a resident of Maryland and a professional electric power engineer I ask for a favorable report on Bill HB 1218 - Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland.

Before Maryland goes down the Virginia's disastrous road, we need to stop and consider the ramifications of the power demands being made on our state and determine how to blend high energy use industries into our business fabric without burdening rate payers.

HB 1218 is a reasonable call to plan before proceeding by requiring a prohibition on the Public Service Commission to hold on any CPCN approval of new or expanding transmission lines.

The Task Force specified in the Bill will assemble our state's experts and advocates in the fields of power systems, the environment and economics. During the period of review the wild swing of information that we are experiencing in the news can be digested, resulting in a reasonable way forward.

Maryland already imports 40% of the power we use. This means that any new high energy use industry like hyperscale datacenters will require either multiple 500 kV transmission lines or gas/steam combined cycle power plants that can provide 2000 or more megawatts.

Before we see multiple MPRP transmission lines invading our countryside, we need to understand and plan and then enact a realistic energy plan forward.

I ask for a favorable report.

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