

FREDERICK H. HOOVER, JR.  
CHAIR

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## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chair C.T. Wilson  
Economic Matters Committee  
230 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

### **RE: HB 1218 – Information – Construction and Expansion of Transmission Lines and Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland**

Dear Chair Wilson and Committee Members:

The Public Service Commission (the Commission) provides the following informational comments on House Bill 1218 (HB 1218) for your consideration.

House Bill 1218 establishes a Task Force to Develop a Realistic Electricity Plan for Maryland to study and make recommendations on the State's current and future electricity needs under various scenarios by prohibiting the Public Service Commission (the Commission) from approving the construction or expansion of transmission lines in the State from July 1, 2025, through May 1, 2026 and requires the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 31, 2025. In particular, the bill provides that the task force will consider policy options and make recommendations for future legislation to address the reliability and adequacy of electricity available to Maryland ratepayers, including options for reducing dependence on imports. The bill provides that the task force will be composed of representatives from State agencies, one of which agencies named is the Maryland Public Service Commission, with the Commission representative to be designated by the Chair.

The uncodified language in Section 2 prohibits the Commission from approving the construction or expansion of transmission lines in the State from July 1, 2025, through May 1, 2026. Section 3 states that the bill shall take effect July 1, 2025 and remain effective until the end of June 30, 2026. Because statutes only operate prospectively, this language, if enacted, would not apply to transmission project applications already under consideration for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) at the Commission. For other projects, however, for which a CPCN has not been applied for prior to the effective date of the statute, if enacted, the legislature is free to restrict the issuance of CPCN. The proposed legislation could however risk the exercise of federal (i.e. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) backstop siting authority for projects ordered by the regional transmission association (PJM), but cannot be authorized by the State.

The bill's requirements should not impose a significant financial impact on the Commission, however, given the State's current resource adequacy problems, including constrained transmission, rising electric demand forecasts, and recent generation retirements, a moratorium on certifying new transmission could exacerbate electric reliability problems for Maryland.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide informational testimony on HB 1218. Please contact the Commission's Director of Legislative Affairs, Christina M. Ochoa, [christina.ochoa1@maryland.gov](mailto:christina.ochoa1@maryland.gov), if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frederick H. Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'F' and 'H'.

Frederick H. Hoover, Chair  
Maryland Public Service Commission