

HB1225_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
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TESTIMONY ON HB#1225 – FAVORABLE

Public Utilities - Electric Distribution System Plans - Establishment (Affordable Grid Act)

TO: Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#1225, Public Utilities - Electric Distribution System Plans - Establishment (Affordable Grid Act)

This bill is submitted to create a framework under which electric companies will need to use integrated distribution system planning and reporting to both government and public bodies the results expected from those plans. It puts in place a process for approval by the PSC that can approve as is or force modifications to plans as submitted.

An Integrated Distribution System Planning (IDSP) process provides a decision framework for developing holistic infrastructure investment strategies for local electricity grids. The planning process involves the determination of grid system requirements that are needed to achieve reliability, resilience, safety, affordability, and other objectives. The process includes the development of a technology roadmap to modernize the grid and enable the integration, utilization, and orchestration of grid-edge technologies like storage, microgrids, and electric vehicles. Given the increasing complexity of demands on grid performance, IDSP provides a platform for holistic decision-making and the formulation of staged investment strategies.¹

This bill will require the Public Service Commission to adopt regulations or issue orders on or before December 31, 2025, that require electric companies to, every 3 years, develop an electric system distribution plan to be approved by the Commission and provide the Commission with annual progress reports. These reports will mandate the development of analysis metrics for actions to be taken. It will then require the Commission to adopt regulations or issue orders adopting certain metrics to monitor and assess electric distribution system plans. The bill expands the public's ability to hear about and testify for or against the plans of the electric companies. This will occur by requiring an electric company to provide certain public comment opportunities.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on HB#1225.

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/oe/integrated-distribution-system-planning>