



House Bill 1035

Position: Information

Committee: House Economic Matters

Date: February 28, 2025

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 1035 (HB 1035) aims to enhance Maryland's energy security by accelerating cleaner in-state electricity generation. The bill directs the Public Service Commission to approve dispatchable energy projects to replace coal and oil, in an effort to ensure grid stability and reducing reliance on out-of-state power. HB 1035 also establishes a nuclear energy procurement process, fosters regional and federal partnerships for new nuclear facilities, and expedites permitting for energy projects, including solar and battery storage. Additionally, the bill ensures large energy users contribute to grid costs by limiting direct connections to an energy facility unless they build or expand their own generation.

The Chamber supports the intent of this legislation to address the state's long-term energy reliability and resource adequacy needs, and we commend legislative leadership for prioritizing this critical issue. Ensuring sufficient in-state generation, grid reliability, and cost-effective energy policies is essential for maintaining a stable and competitive business environment in Maryland.

As discussions on HB 1035 progress, we encourage the General Assembly to engage with the industries and businesses directly affected by these proposed changes. A balanced, industry-informed approach will help ensure that policies effectively support energy generation, affordability, and regulatory efficiency.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments on **HB 1035**.