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**SB 270 Public Service Commission - Full Costs and Benefits Analysis of Sources of
Electricity Generation
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 19, 2026
FAVORABLE**

Good afternoon, Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education Environment and Energy Committee. My name is Sara Westrick, Advocacy Director for AARP Maryland, representing approximately 850,000 members. AARP brings the lived experiences and priorities of older Marylanders to the policymaking process, ensuring that decisions reflect the needs of adults age 50 and over, many of whom are older ratepayers living on fixed incomes.

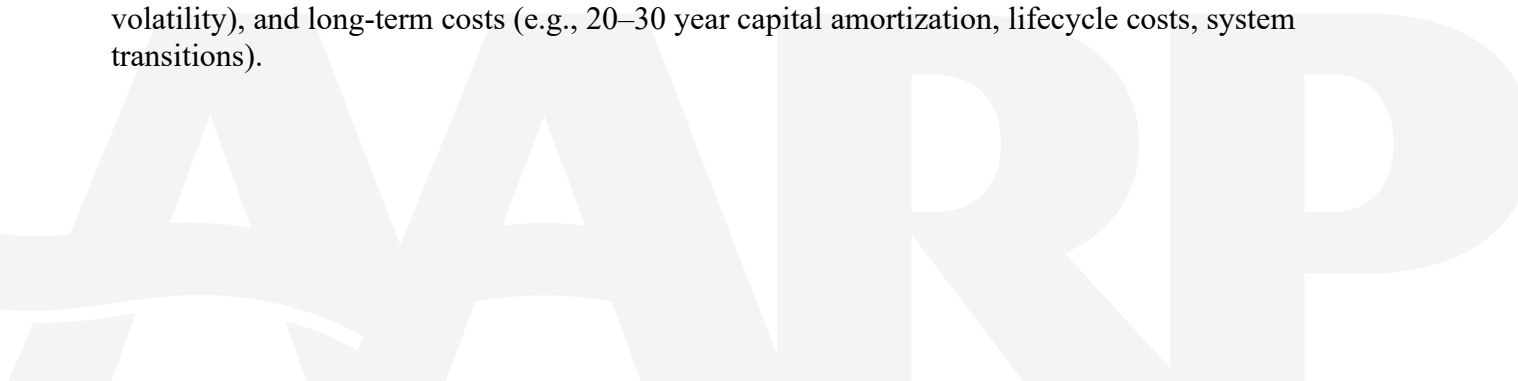
We support SB 270 Public Service Commission – Full Costs and Benefits Analysis of Source of Electricity Generation. We also thank Senator Carozza for introducing this bill.

AARP Maryland is committed to ensuring that electricity remains affordable and reliable for older consumers. Rising energy costs can place significant financial strain on retirees and those on fixed incomes, making it essential that any state energy policy prioritize cost-effective, sustainable solutions.

SB 270 requires the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) to conduct a comprehensive, data-driven analysis of the full costs and benefits associated with major electricity generation sources: natural gas, nuclear power, and offshore wind. The study examines both current and future-generation scenarios, including the role of energy storage, to determine which pathways offer the lowest costs and greatest benefits to Maryland ratepayers

Maryland is undergoing a major energy transition. Policymakers need independent data on how different energy sources impact reliability, affordability, long-term system costs, and ratepayer impacts. The bill specifically requires modeling that reflects the true, full system costs of each energy source. Affordability is paramount for older ratepayers, many of whom are on fixed incomes and cannot absorb sudden increases in electricity costs.

A review such as the one described in the bill may help create a clear, comparable view of long-term system viability, helping to ensure legislators have actionable guidance to shape Maryland's energy strategy. The methodology could be improved by explicitly drawing out current as well as short-term costs (e.g., near-term rate impacts, construction timelines, fuel price volatility), and long-term costs (e.g., 20–30 year capital amortization, lifecycle costs, system transitions).



AARP Maryland's Position

AARP Maryland supports cost-effective solutions for electricity generation, transmission, and storage that keep rates low for older Marylanders and all ratepayers. We urge the committee to consider flexibility in the study's modeling approach, ensuring the most appropriate tools are used to produce an accurate and meaningful cost-benefit analysis.

If you have any questions, please contact Sara Westrick at swestrick@aarp.org or 410-310-0374.