



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

FROM: MEA

SUBJECT: SB 749 - Residential Retail Customer and Retail Electricity Suppliers - Definition and Alterations

DATE: February 26, 2026

MEA Position: FAVORABLE

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) respectfully submits this letter in support of Senate Bill 749.

SB 749 provides important consumer protection clarifications and refinements within Maryland's retail energy market. The bill establishes a clear statutory definition of "residential retail customer," strengthens pricing guardrails for residential electricity supply, clarifies billing practices, and enhances oversight of electricity marketed as green power.

The bill defines "residential retail customer" in statute. This improves regulatory clarity and ensures that consumer protections appropriately apply to customers purchasing electricity or gas for use at a domicile. By distinguishing residential accounts from those serving primary business operations that may be coded as residential, the bill provides needed precision in implementation and enforcement.

Second, SB 749 refines the pricing structure for residential electricity suppliers by tying the allowable price more directly to the electric company's standard offer service rate at the time of agreement. This approach increases transparency and reduces exposure to price volatility that may otherwise disadvantage residential customers. The bill's continued prohibition on variable rates—other than limited seasonal or time-of-use adjustments—and restrictions on automatic renewals for green power offerings further strengthen consumer safeguards.

The authorization of consolidated billing provides operational flexibility while maintaining existing consumer protections. This adjustment supports administrative efficiency and may simplify the customer experience without weakening oversight.

Finally, the bill maintains and enhances the Public Service Commission's role in reviewing and approving the price of electricity marketed as green power. By requiring annual proceedings, cost transparency, consideration of renewable energy credit costs, and reporting when prices exceed statutory thresholds, SB 749 ensures that green power offerings remain credible, cost-justified, and aligned with Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard.

Importantly, the bill's sponsors and stakeholders continue to work collaboratively on a suite of policy options designed to strike the appropriate balance between protecting consumers and ensuring that retail energy suppliers can continue to operate responsibly and competitively in Maryland. That balance is essential to maintaining market stability while strengthening transparency and accountability.

Taken together, SB 749 strengthens transparency, improves definitional clarity, and reinforces consumer protections in Maryland's retail energy market while maintaining appropriate regulatory oversight.

For the foregoing reasons, MEA urges the committee to issue a **favorable report**. Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Landon Fahrig, Legislative Liaison, at landon.fahrig@maryland.gov or 410.913.1537.