



HB648: Office of Home Energy Programs - Uniform Redetermination Process – Age

Position: Favorable

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
Cc: Members of the Committee

Chair Feldman and members of the committee,

Economic Action Maryland Fund urges a favorable report on HB648, which would lower the age to redetermine eligibility for energy assistance from 65 to 60.

As the members of this committee are painfully aware, energy rates have risen dramatically in recent years due to a variety of factors. Thousands of Marylanders each year face shutoff notices due to nonpayment, while many others are forced to juggle multi-hundred-dollar utility bills alongside the ever-increasing costs of rent, groceries, and other necessities. In fact, when Economic Action Maryland Fund surveyed our members and other stakeholders this winter, 63% stated utility bills were their primary concern.

Maryland's energy assistance programs help those most in need and have strict income thresholds to determine the support that someone is eligible for. Lowering the age for the redetermination process would enable a significant number of households to potentially qualify for assistance, easing their energy burden in a meaningful and timely manner.

HB468 is a fast, efficient way to provide assistance to Marylanders and we urge a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bevan-Dangel
Deputy Director

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

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