

HB1532 CrossoverBill_RichardKaplowitz_FAV

03/25/2026

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TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#1532- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act

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

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of crossover HB#1532, **Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act**

The purpose of this bill is to have the Office of Home Energy Programs implement and administer the electric universal service program. The purpose of the electric universal service program is to assist electric customers with annual incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. The components of the electric universal service program shall include:

- bill assistance
- low-income residential weatherization
- the retirement of arrearages for electric customers who have not received assistance in retiring arrearages under the ELECTRIC universal service program within the preceding 5 fiscal years.

This emergency bill will assist Marylanders being squeezed by high electric bills.

This bill will lower the maximum monthly energy demand that is required for a certain large load customer to qualify for a specific rate schedule; alter the requirements that a certain multiyear rate plan must meet; authorize the Public Service Commission to require a public service company to include a certain reconciliation procedure in the company's multiyear rate plan; alter the years for which certain electricity savings percentages are used to calculate certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets; etc.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on crossover bill HB#1532.