



**SB598: Electric Companies - Cost Containment Plans - Requirement (Securing Affordable, Valuable Investments in Next Generation Grid Solutions (SAVINGS) Act)**

**Position: Favorable**

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy and 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 SB598, which would help reduce energy costs to ratepayers long-term by reducing spending on grid infrastructure, and improve service and reliability for ratepayers by reducing the chance of brownouts or blackouts.

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 did not arrive at the current energy price crisis overnight, and we will not fix this crisis easily or quickly. This legislation would move the state towards affordability by creating cost containment plans including peak-load reduction goals. Grid infrastructure investments are a major cause of rising energy bills. By deploying advanced energy solutions, utility companies can respond to infrastructure needs more quickly with less capital investment, building on existing infrastructure.

Studies from New York and Atlantic City have demonstrated the potential for significant cost-savings from this approach.<sup>1</sup> And by mandating the PSC approval process include the cost-savings analysis, this legislation can ensure that the promise of savings becomes a reality.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on SB598.

Sincerely, Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Deputy Director

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<sup>1</sup> "New York's Grid Flexibility Potential." Brattle for NYSERDA and NY Dept. of Public Service.  
"Cost-Benefit Analysis of Electric Distribution Investments." Brattle for Atlantic City Electric.

*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.*