

HB0597 - Senate_FAV_City of Rockville_Montgomery C

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**Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 597 – Montgomery County – Community Choice Aggregation Pilot
Program – Alterations MC 17-26
SUPPORT**

The Rockville Mayor and Council are thankful to Chair Feldman and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee for the opportunity to comment on *HB 597: Montgomery County – Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program – Alterations*. The Mayor and Council support HB 597, as the bill is necessary to extend key dates and allow Montgomery County to advance implementation of its Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) pilot program.

With a population of more than 68,000, the City of Rockville strongly supports expanding access for residents and small businesses to clean and renewable sources of energy and to competitive electricity rates. The city is also committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other hazardous air and water pollution and support State efforts that demonstrate climate and energy leadership.

In 2021, Rockville supported passage of House Bill 768, which authorized Montgomery County to establish the CCA pilot program. HB 597 builds on that effort by extending the pilot timeline to allow additional time for implementation, operation, and reporting on the program's performance. CCA is identified in both the City of Rockville's and Montgomery County's Climate Action Plans as one of the most impactful strategies for meeting local climate goals.

Extending the pilot timeline will allow Montgomery County to aggregate demand more effectively, negotiate more favorable rates with competitive suppliers, and advance the transition to cleaner energy sources that support community-wide greenhouse gas reduction goals.

House Bill 597 supports local and State climate and energy goals, and we urge the Committee to provide this legislation with a favorable report. We thank the Committee for considering Rockville's comments as the Committee deliberates the merits of this legislation.

HB 597 - MoCo for EEE (GA 26) FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Garrett Fitzgerald

Position: FAV



Montgomery County

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HB 597

DATE: April 2, 2026

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment

CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)

COUNTY POSITION: Support

Montgomery County – Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program – Alterations MC 17-26

House Bill 597 would make minor adjustments to the authorized start and end dates of Montgomery County's community choice energy (CCE) pilot program.

The passage of House Bill 768 in 2021 authorized Montgomery County to create a CCE pilot program to aggregate the electricity demand of residents and small businesses to negotiate for more favorable terms and renewable energy options. The County has subsequently worked with the Maryland Public Service Commission to establish general operating procedures for the pilot. This process took longer than anticipated and has resulted in the need to adjust the pilot dates.

House Bill 597 makes minor changes to the Public Utilities Article, Section 7-510.3 to modify the authorized start and end dates of the CCE pilot program. These changes will enable the CCE pilot to run for the originally intended seven-year period, enabling Montgomery County to fully demonstrate and evaluate the effectiveness of this program which may be able to improve renewable energy outcomes while protecting customer rates. If these changes are not made, there is a high likelihood that the CCE pilot will only be able to deliver power for 18 months or less before the pilot period is required to end per current statute.

Montgomery County respectfully requests that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 597.

Senate Testimony.HB597_Delegate Lorig Charkoudian.

Uploaded by: Lorig Charkoudian

Position: FAV

LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
Legislative District 20
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Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 597- MONTGOMERY COUNTY - COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION PILOT PROGRAM
- ALTERATIONS

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
MARCH 4, 2026

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

The passage of House Bill 768 in 2021 authorized Montgomery County to create a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program pilot to aggregate the electricity demand of residents and small businesses and negotiate for more favorable terms and renewable energy options. Since then, there have been several procedural steps to follow in order to actually establish the pilot. The Public Service Commission (PSC) had to establish a CCA Workgroup and adopt regulations, a process which took from September 2021 to January 2024. Then, the County had to pass a local law, enabling the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection to implement a CCA, which passed in October 2025. These processes took longer than anticipated and there are still several steps to go.

The original legislation required the pilots to begin in April of 2026 and last for 7 years. Similarly, there were reporting requirements based on those dates. This bill merely extends these timelines to allow for the lengthy processes it took to get here.

This bill will:

- Extend the required start date by 1 year
- Extend the project length by 1 year
- Extend the required report dates

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 597.

Takoma Park 2026 - HB 597 FAV - MC Community Choic

Uploaded by: Talisha Searcy

Position: FAV



CITY TAKOMA OF PARK MARYLAND

**Support House Bill 597 – Montgomery County – Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program – Alterations (MC 17-26)
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
April 2, 2026**

The City of Takoma Park fully supports House Bill 597 - Montgomery County - Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program - Alterations MC 17-26. Given the complexity of developing and implementing this important pilot program, this extension of time is essential to its success.

The CCA program will allow Montgomery County to purchase electricity for residents, businesses, and local governments. By doing so, it will expand access to more competitive pricing, increase our use of renewable energy, and provide greater stability in energy supplies. These benefits strongly support Takoma Park's ongoing commitment to energy efficiency and sustainable practices.

Takoma Park is dedicated to ambitious climate goals, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supporting clean energy. The City's 2019 Climate Action Plan identified CCA as a key strategy to achieve these objectives. The Montgomery County CCA pilot, through HB 548, will help to empower our community to buy renewable electricity together, helping Takoma Park meet its climate targets by expanding access to clean energy and advancing local sustainability.

In 2021, the Maryland General Assembly authorized Montgomery County to pursue a CCA pilot program. Building on this, in 2024, the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) adopted CCA framework regulations, developed with input from a formal CCA Workgroup, stakeholders and the community and recommended by the County Council. And recently, with expedited bill 27-25, the County formally established a county CCA program to implement the effort.

The City of Takoma Park enthusiastically supports House Bill 597 and urges favorable committee action.

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