



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 723

DATE: February 24, 2026

SPONSOR: Delegate Qi

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Bryan Howard (bryan.howard@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support (Department of Environmental Protection)

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

The bill requires electric companies to submit comprehensive cost containment plans to the Public Service Commission to help reduce electricity costs through the integration of advanced energy solutions.

Utility bills have increased significantly in recent years in Montgomery County and across Maryland. For example, the Maryland Office of People's Counsel reports that Pepco has increased distribution rates at an average of 6% annually from 2010-2025. These increases along with skyrocketing PJM capacity prices are resulting in unsustainable energy bills for County residents.

As electricity prices continue to rise, it is critically important that electric distribution system planning evolve to ensure that future investments are made as cost-effectively as possible with a comprehensive view of achieving and balancing State goals and priorities. Cost-saving energy solutions like demand response and advanced transmission technologies can be deployed relatively quickly and can increase the capacity and efficiency of existing grid infrastructure, limiting the need to recover additional infrastructure costs through customer rates.

This is common sense legislation that would address challenges of cost and growing demand for energy while protecting ratepayers.

We respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 723.