



House Bill 54 - Task Force to Study Restructuring Maryland's Electric Utility Industry

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports House Bill 54, which would create a task force to evaluate whether Maryland should change how electric service is structured and governed. The task force would study alternative utility models, including publicly owned utilities, cooperatives, and public utility districts, and assess whether those models could improve affordability for Maryland ratepayers. Additionally, the task force would examine infrastructure investment needs, the legal and cost implications of moving assets to public ownership, including potential use of eminent domain, and whether Maryland should change its participation in regional energy markets, including PJM.

Maryland REALTORS® applauds efforts to examine alternatives to the current system that could lead to a reduction in electricity rates. Many residents, both homeowners and renters alike, are so cost burdened by household expenses that they are considering leaving the State of Maryland; therefore, it is important that energy policy decisions are guided by real world affordability and do not further strain household budgets through higher utility costs. The task force's report, due in late 2027, would provide a solid factual basis to guide future decisions that can affect electric rates and housing affordability.

For these reasons, Maryland REALTORS® respectfully requests a favorable report.

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