



House Bill 1 -- *Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies - Cost Recovery - Limitations*
House Environment and Transportation Committee
January 28, 2026
Oppose

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes House Bill 1 -- *Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies - Cost Recovery – Limitations*.

House Bill 1 prohibits an investor-owned electric, gas, or combination gas and electric company from recovering through rates any costs associated with employee bonuses or “compensation” for supervisors that exceeds 110% of the maximum annual salary payable to a member of the Public Service Commission (PSC). The bill further requires that the board of directors of each investor-owned electric, gas, and combination gas and electric company to adopt a company-wide policy placing reasonable cost limitations on a variety of expenditures.

While the Chamber appreciates the goal of reducing gas and electric utility rates, we oppose implementing measures in Maryland that would make the state less competitive than its neighboring and competitor states, none of which have these requirements. No other state in the country has a law dictating how utilities must compensate their workers.

MCCC is concerned that this legislation represents a significant departure from long-standing utility regulatory practices and could ultimately harm Maryland’s business competitiveness. Although the bill’s intent is well-meaning, it may create unintended consequences that negatively impact ratepayers. It is essential for utilities to maintain the ability to offer competitive compensation so they can attract and retain a skilled workforce capable of delivering high-quality service.

Additionally, the bill would affect thousands of workers at a time when many families are already grappling with affordability challenges. By placing limits on compensation, the legislation could impose a financial burden on these workers and undermine their economic stability.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce opposes House Bill 1 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), on behalf of its members, champions the growth of business opportunities, strategic infrastructure investments, and a strong workforce to position Metro Maryland as a premier regional, national, and global business location. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent, non-profit membership organization.

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