



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 597

DATE: February 24, 2026

SPONSOR: Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

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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 Environment and Transportation Committee issue a favorable report on House Bill 597.