



Maryland

Energy Administration

TO: Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee
FROM: MEA
SUBJECT: HB 54 - Task Force to Study Restructuring Maryland's Electric Utility Industry
DATE: February 3, 2026

MEA Position: LETTER OF INFORMATION

The Maryland Energy Administration shares the General Assembly's interest in ensuring affordable, reliable, and equitable electric service for Maryland ratepayers. However, the scope highlighted in House Bill 54 substantially overlaps with ongoing and recently initiated efforts within the Administration and legislative leadership to address Maryland's broader energy resource planning and electric market structure challenges, including the Strategic Energy Planning Office which was created in December 2025 after the General Assembly passed the Energy Resource Adequacy and Planning Act.

In December 2025, Governor Moore announced a comprehensive, Administration-led task force charged with examining Maryland's long-term energy resource adequacy, grid reliability, market participation, and cost impacts to ratepayers. That effort brings together the Maryland Energy Administration, the Public Service Commission, the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Office of People's Counsel, and other key agency and industry stakeholders to comprehensively assess how Maryland's electric system must evolve to meet reliability, affordability, and clean energy goals. The scope of this work includes many of the same core issues brought forth in House Bill 54, including electric market structure, infrastructure investment needs, ratepayer impacts, and Maryland's role within regional transmission and wholesale market frameworks.

Given this landscape, House Bill 54 risks duplicating ongoing, resource-intensive efforts already underway across State agencies and stakeholder bodies. Establishing an additional task force with overlapping membership, scope, and analytical objectives may strain limited agency resources, create parallel processes, and introduce potential confusion regarding the State's primary forum for evaluating complex electric market restructuring questions.

For these reasons, this bill is submitted with this letter of information to note the substantial overlap with ongoing Administration and legislative efforts and to encourage continued coordination as Maryland evaluates long-term electric utility and market structure considerations. Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Megan Outten, Policy Manager, at megan.outten@maryland.gov or 443.842.1780.