



**HB540: Investor-Owned Electric, Gas, and Gas and Electric Companies -
Utility Rate Changes (Public Service Company Transparency Act)**

Position: Favorable

February 10, 2026

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair
Environment and Transportation Committee
250 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
Cc: Members of the Committee

Chair Korman and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

Economic Action Maryland Fund urges a favorable report on HB540, which would create greater transparency around utility rate changes.

As the members of this committee are painfully aware, energy rates have risen dramatically in recent years due to a variety of factors. Thousands of Marylanders each year face shutoff notices due to nonpayment, while many others are forced to juggle multi-hundred-dollar utility bills alongside the ever-increasing costs of rent, groceries, and other necessities. In fact, when Economic Action Maryland Fund surveyed our members and other stakeholders this winter, 63% stated utility bills were their primary concern.

This legislation requires utility companies to provide notice to ratepayers of a potential increase, as well as how to access that proceeding. It also requires reporting on 10 year trends, including capital expenditures and commodity costs.

Part of the frustration felt by ratepayers is a lack of understanding why and how their rates keep changing. The transparency created in this bill would increase public understanding and provide the public the opportunity to engage in the rate cases that so directly impact them.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB540.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Deputy Director

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

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