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Environment and Transportation  
Committee

*Vice Chair*  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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Chair Korman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

House Bill 642 requires electric companies to submit annual reports to the Public Service Commission detailing geographic and demographic data on customers affected by certain service outages and rate increases. The reporting applies to outages lasting two hours or longer, scheduled maintenance outages, outages occurring during inclement weather events, and customers impacted by rate adjustments.

Electric utilities operate within exclusive service territories under the oversight of the Public Service Commission. The structure demands sufficient transparency. Current reporting requirements do not consistently provide data at a level specific enough to assess patterns by geography or community characteristics. As a result, regulators and policymakers are limited in their ability to identify trends in outage duration, restoration timelines, or cost burdens that may vary across service areas.

HB 642 establishes a standardized annual reporting framework of information from the previous year. This bill does not impose operational requirements, alter restoration priorities, or affect rate case determinations. Utilities already collect outage and customer data through existing management and mapping systems. This legislation ensures that additional relevant information is compiled in a format that supports meaningful oversight.

Rising electric costs also affect households and businesses in diverse ways and every Marylander pays into the system. Reliability should not vary based on geography or characteristics of residents. Structured geographic reporting will allow the Commission and the General Assembly to assess affordability trends with greater precision and to inform future policy decisions based on measurable outcomes. Evaluating the effectiveness of those decisions requires clear visibility into where service interruptions occur, how long they persist, and how cost impacts are distributed.

HB 642 equips the State with the data necessary to evaluate reliability performance and cost impacts across communities. When utilities operate under state granted authority, accountability and transparency must be supported by accessible and standardized information.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 642.

Very Truly Yours,

*Jeffrie E. Long, Jr.*  
Delegate Jeffrie E. Long, Jr.