

LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Public Utilities

Chair, Unemployment Insurance



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 597- MONTGOMERY COUNTY - COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION PILOT PROGRAM
- ALTERATIONS

TESTIMONY OF DELEGATE LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee,

The passage of House Bill 768 in 2021 authorized Montgomery County to create a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program pilot to aggregate the electricity demand of residents and small businesses and negotiate for more favorable terms and renewable energy options. Since then, there have been several procedural steps to follow in order to actually establish the pilot. The Public Service Commission (PSC) had to establish a CCA Workgroup and adopt regulations, a process which took from September 2021 to January 2024. Then, the County had to pass a local law, enabling the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection to implement a CCA, which passed in October 2025. These processes took longer than anticipated and there are still several steps to go.

The original legislation required the pilots to begin in April of 2026 and last for 7 years. Similarly, there were reporting requirements based on those dates. This bill merely extends these timelines to allow for the lengthy processes it took to get here.

This bill will:

- Extend the required start date by 1 year
- Extend the project length by 1 year
- Extend the required report dates

I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 597.