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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

May 14, 2026

Utility RELIEF Act of 2026 Net Energy * Administrative Docket
Metering Successor Program * PC 78
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NOTICE CONVENING A PUBLIC CONFERENCE

During the 2026 Legislative Session, the Maryland General Assembly passed the Utility RELIEF (Reducing Energy Load Inflation for Everyday Families) Act (“Act”).¹ Among other things, the Act requires the Commission by February 1, 2027 to approve, as a successor program to the net energy metering program under § 7-306 of the Public Utilities Article (“PUA”) of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, a framework for a new net energy metering program to begin July 1, 2027. The Act requires the Commission to conduct a proceeding to explore the development and implementation of a successor program, and to accept input from utility companies, owners and developers of net metered projects, renewable energy industry experts, including representatives from the solar energy industry, consumer advocates, and other stakeholders.

The Commission initiates Public Conference 78 (“PC 78”) as the proceeding under which it will conduct the activities required under the Act related to the net energy metering successor program. The Commission hereby directs the establishment of a Net Energy Metering Successor Program Working Group (“NEM Successor Working Group”) and appoints Melanie Santiago-

¹ House Bill 1532 (2026), available at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2026RS/bills/hb/hb1532E.pdf>.

Mosier as the working group leader. The NEM Successor Working Group shall focus its efforts primarily on the investigation and tasks outlined in § 7-306.4 of the PUA as established by the Act, as well as Section 9 of the Act.² The NEM Successor Working Group shall file a draft report and framework with the Commission by October 27, 2026.

Parties and interested persons wishing to participate in the NEM Successor Working Group may reach out to NEMSuccessor.PSC@maryland.gov to be included in the participation roster.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston
Executive Secretary

² The Commission understands the long-established Net Energy Metering Working Group facilitated by the Commission's Technical Staff is discussing newly passed provisions under § 7-306 of the PUA related to eligible customer-generators' and community solar projects' eligibility to participate in the original net energy metering program. The Commission looks forward to hearing the Net Energy Metering Working Group's recommendations with regard to these projects.