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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

June 29, 2026

Utility RELIEF Act Customer Refunds and
Master Meter Customer Inquiry

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Administrative Docket
PC 80

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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”), which was signed into law by Governor Wes Moore on May 12, 2026.¹ The Act designates \$100,000,000 from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund to be used to provide grants to electric companies to be credited or refunded to residential electric customers to offset charges associated with EmPOWER.² The funds are to be distributed to customers in equal monthly amounts during calendar year 2027.³

The Commission hereby initiates this Public Conference (“PC 80”) to facilitate the implementation of this grant and credit process. The Commission directs each electric utility that collects a surcharge under § 7-222(d) of the Public Utilities Article to file in this docket by August 14, 2026 a proposed plan for implementing these credit or refund requirements of the Act. Other parties may also submit comments as to the implementation of these requirements by August 14, 2026.

¹ HB 1532 (2026) https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2026RS/chapters_noln/Ch_353_hb1532E.pdf.

² Section 10(b).

³ Section 10(c)(2).

Additionally, the Act requires the Commission, to the greatest extent practicable and in consultation with each electric company that collects a surcharge under § 7-222(d) of the Public Utilities Article, to:

- (i) determine the commercial customers of each electric company that use a master meter to allocate costs of retail electric service to the residents of apartments, condominiums, and other multi-occupancy residencies;
- (ii) determine the estimated energy use by the commercial customers identified under item (i); and
- (iii) determine the number of multi-occupancy residential dwelling units served by each master meter.⁴

If the information above is able to be ascertained with a reasonable degree of certainty, the Commission may require that these master meter customers receive a pro rata share of certain residential grant funds authorized by the Act, which the master meter customer must then distribute to residential accounts behind their master meter.⁵

In order to ensure compliance with the Act's directives, the Commission directs each electric company that collects a surcharge under § 7-222(d) of the Public Utilities Article to file responses to the following inquiries as soon as possible, but no later than July 31, 2026:

1. Provide the number of electric master meter accounts for your utility that serve residential apartments, condominiums, or other multi-occupancy residences. If this data cannot be provided, provide a detailed explanation why it cannot be provided.
2. Provide the average monthly energy usage of each identified master meter account. If this data cannot be provided, provide a detailed explanation why it cannot be provided.
3. Provide the number of residential customers behind each identified master meter account. If this data cannot be provided, provide a detailed explanation why it cannot be provided.

⁴ Section 10(d)(1).

⁵ Section 10(d)(2)-(4). If the information cannot be ascertained, the Commission must report the reason to the Maryland General Assembly by December 1, 2026. Section 10(d)(5).

4. Provide the average monthly energy usage of the residential customers behind each master meter. If this data cannot be provided, provide a detailed explanation why it cannot be provided.
5. For any question above in which your utility indicated that it cannot provide the data, identify the most efficient way for your utility to effectively obtain this data (e.g. survey, door-to-door inquiry, study, etc.). Provide time estimates for completion and cost estimates of your utility's proposed method.
6. How would your utility enforce the requirement in the Act that master meter accounts who receive grants pass on the funds to their residential customers behind the meter?

At the time of filing, utilities should also provide the data requested in questions one through four in Excel spreadsheet format to the Commission's Technical Staff ("Staff") representative(s) as designated on the service list.

Once filed, Staff is directed to review the responses and report to the Commission by September 15, 2026, addressing the following:

- a. Whether the specified utilities provided the requested data, and if so:
 - i. whether the data provides sufficient information to allow the Commission to provide master meter customers with grants as contemplated in the Act;
 - ii. any additional information the Commission would need to proceed with providing master meter customers with such grants; and
 - iii. whether providing master meter customers with such grants would violate the public interest.
- b. For each specified utility that did not provide any portion of the requested data:
 - i. whether the explanation(s) given for being unable to provide the information are reasonable; and
 - ii. whether it would be feasible for the utility to take additional steps to obtain the information as outlined in its response, considering the estimated time and resources needed.

- c. Staff's recommendation for how the Commission should proceed as to each specified utility, including whether the Commission should order additional steps be taken to ascertain the requested information; and
- d. Any other information Staff considers important for the Commission to know.

Staff may issue any data requests to the utilities it feels are necessary to ensure Staff is able to substantively complete its report. Utilities are ordered to respond to any such data requests within five business days unless an extended timeframe is agreed to between the utility and Staff.

All documents required pursuant to this notice must be filed by the deadlines specified using the Commission's e-file system,⁶ include "PC 80" in the subject line, and be addressed to Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 16th Floor, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. The Commission will issue future notices in this administrative docket.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston
Executive Secretary

⁶ <https://webpscxb.pscmaryland.com/DMS/E-file>