

**STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL**

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BILL NO.: **Senate Bill 449**
Electric Service Quality and Reliability
Standards--Deadlines

COMMITTEE: **Finance**

HEARING DATE: **February 28, 2012**

SPONSOR: **Senator Middleton**

POSITION: **Support**

Senate Bill 449 would change reporting deadlines for electric companies to submit their annual performance reports on reliability and for the Public Service Commission to decide whether the companies have met their annual service quality and reliability standards. The Bill aims to alleviate the concern that the current reporting deadlines leave the electric companies with insufficient time to completely and accurately satisfy the annual reporting requirements and the PSC insufficient time to review reliability results from the companies.

The Office of People's Counsel (OPC) participated extensively in the Commission's rulemaking sessions to implement the Maryland Electricity Service Quality and Reliability Act of 2011 (Chapters 167 and 168). During that process, the timing issues with the reporting deadlines became clear. This Bill will modify those report deadlines and permit a review process that works for the

Commission, utilities and stakeholders. Therefore, the Office of People's Counsel respectfully requests a FAVORABLE report.