HOUSE BILL 431

C5 1lr0662

By: Montgomery County Delegation

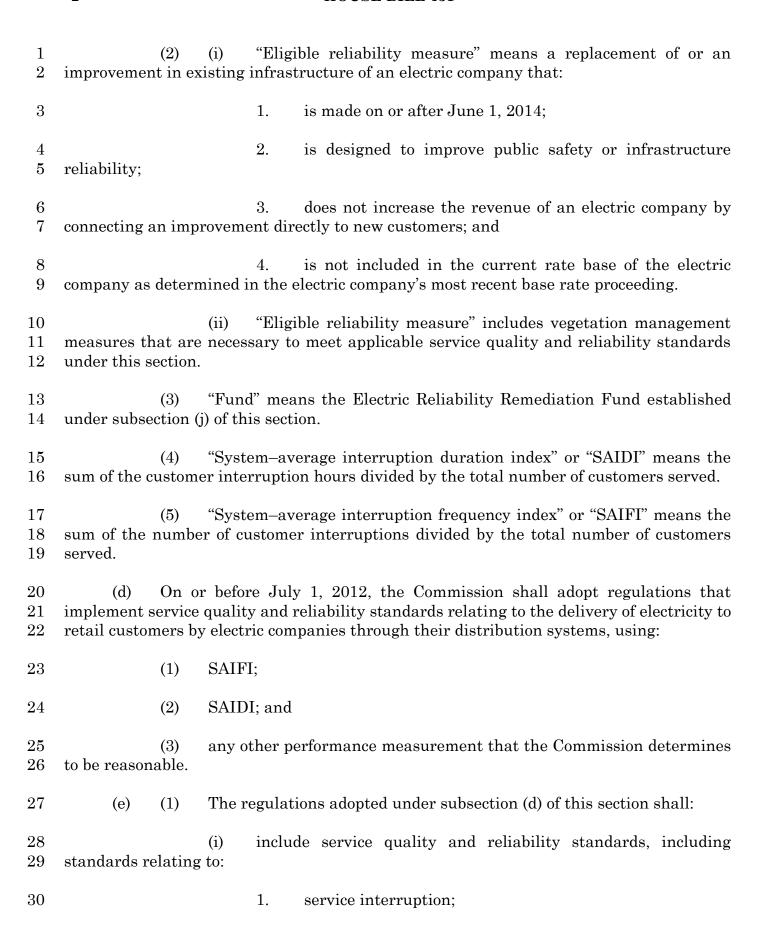
Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2021

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN ACT concerning				
2 3	Montgomery County - Interference With Electric Company's Vegetation Management Compliance - Exemption				
4	MC 10–21				
5 6 7 8	certain actions that interfere with, or materially increase the cost of, an electric company's compliance with certain vegetation management standards; an				
9 10 11	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Public Utilities Section 7–213(a) and (d)				
12	Annotated Code of Maryland				
13	(2020 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)				
14 15	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Public Utilities				
16 17					
18	Annotated Code of Maryland (2020 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)				
19	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND				
20	That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:				
21	Article - Public Utilities				
22	7–213.				
23	(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.				





1			2.	downed wire response;		
2			3.	customer communications;		
3			4.	vegetation management;		
4			5.	periodic equipment inspections;		
5			6.	annual reliability reporting; and		
6			7.	any other standards established by the Commission;		
7 8	an electric compan	(ii) y; and	accour	nt for major outages caused by events outside the control of		
9 10 11	(iii) for an electric company that fails to meet the applicable service quality and reliability standards, require the electric company to file a corrective action plan that details specific actions the company will take to meet the standards.					
12 13 14	(2) The regulations adopted under subsection (d) of this section may include a separate reliability standard for each electric company in order to account for system reliability differentiating factors, including:					
15		(i)	system	n design;		
16		(ii)	existii	ng infrastructure;		
17		(iii)	custor	ner density; and		
18		(iv)	geogra	aphy.		
19 20	(3) In adopting the regulations required under subsection (d) of this section, the Commission shall:					
$\frac{21}{22}$	Electronics Engine	(i) ers;	consid	ler applicable standards of the Institute of Electrical and		
23 24	cost–effective; and	(ii)	ensur	e that the service quality and reliability standards are		
25 26	consider:	(iii)	with 1	respect to standards relating to vegetation management,		
27 28	property; and		1.	limitations on an electric company's right to access private		
29			2	customer acceptance of vegetation management		

1 initiatives.

- 2 $\,$ (4) (I) This paragraph does not apply in Montgomery 3 County.
- 4 (II) A county or municipal corporation may not adopt or enforce a local law, rule, or regulation or take any other action that interferes with, or materially increases the cost of the work of an electric company toward, compliance with the vegetation management standards adopted under subsection (d) of this section.
- 8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 9 October 1, 2021.