

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2026 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-011-2026

Proposed by Council Member Burroughs

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction February 24, 2026

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Maryland Office of People’s Counsel - Investigation of Public Utility Rate Increases

3 For the purpose of requesting the Office of People’s Counsel investigate the significant public
4 utility rate increases affecting Prince George’s County.

5 WHEREAS, Title 4, Subtitle 1, Section 4-102 of the Public Utilities Article, Annotated
6 Code of Maryland permits the Public Service Commission to set just and reasonable rates for a
7 public service company, as maximum rate, minimum rate, or both; and

8 WHEREAS, the Public Services Commission plays a crucial role in consumer protection,
9 providing a platform for complaints and dispute resolution. The Consumer Affairs Division
10 investigates these complaints, supported by the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel, which
11 advocates for residential consumers in utility matters; and

12 WHEREAS, Maryland’s public utility landscape includes services such as electricity, gas,
13 telecommunications, water, and sewage, each regulated by the Public Services Commission; and

14 WHEREAS, compliance involves engaging with the community and addressing consumer
15 concerns. Providers are expected to maintain open communication with customers, providing
16 timely information about service changes and billing practices. The Public Service Commission
17 encourages robust customer service programs that prioritize transparency and responsiveness;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel assists residential customers with
20 public utility complaints regarding electricity, natural gas, telephone, and private water services;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, State law provides that if the Office of People’s Counsel considers the interest

1 of residential and noncommercial users to be affected, the Office of People’s Counsel shall
2 appear before the Commission and courts on behalf of residential and noncommercial users in
3 each matter or proceeding over which the Public Services Commission has original jurisdiction,
4 including a proceeding on the rates, service, or practices of a public service company or on
5 related violations; and

6 WHEREAS, as provided in State law, as the Office of People’s Counsel considers
7 necessary, the Office shall conduct investigations and request the Public Service Commission to
8 initiate proceedings to protect the interests of residential and noncommercial users; and

9 WHEREAS, the State’s Next Generation Energy Act (HB1035) was a reform bill aiming
10 to, among other things, address rising gas and electric bills effective July 1, 2025; and

11 WHEREAS, in March 2025, the County Council requested that the Maryland Public
12 Service Commission initiate a moratorium on all utility rate increases for an indefinite period of
13 time; and

14 WHEREAS, more reforms are needed to address the enormous public utility rate increases
15 that continue to affect County residents; and

16 WHEREAS, residents in Prince George’s County continue to face unprecedented
17 challenges in affording essential services; and

18 WHEREAS, these escalating utility costs are placing an undue burden on low- and
19 moderate-income households; and

20 WHEREAS, a comprehensive investigation of the causes of the rise in public utility rates
21 should be conducted to ascertain the necessity of the current rates.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George’s
23 County, Maryland, that the County Council requests that the Maryland Office of People’s
24 Counsel investigate the significant public utility rate increases, affecting Prince George’s
25 County.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2026.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Krystal Oriadha
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council