



Increased Health Protections at the Public Service Commission (HB1632)

This bill establishes that the health of communities should be considered as a matter of standard practice at the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Community health impacts of proposed activities must be considered by applicants to the PSC seeking licensure for natural gas infrastructure, electricity, transmission lines and related utilities. Maryland residents shouldn't have to raise funds to perform a costly health study to find out this information.

This legislation calls for a **Health Impact Assessment (HIA)** that is:

- lower cost
- concluded within thirty days of the initial application to the PSC

This would provide basic information on community health and make people a priority for the PSC when considering the viability of application.

Applicants to the PSC already consider the environmental impacts to air, water, aesthetics, and cultural significance, but what good is that review if human health isn't factored in to the analysis?

HB1632 would require a rapid HIA (to be performed by computer) on proposed natural gas infrastructure development project outlined in a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN), including any major modifications to existing projects as well as applications for licenses for gas services. This would allow the PSC to determine if the assessment was adequately performed and enhance public health protections for Marylanders.

House Hearing Date: March 8 at 1pm

Committee: Economic Matters

Support public health protections at the PSC in #MdGA18!