

PROPOSED REFORM AT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Health Impact Assessments at the Public Service Commission:

Along with ensuring safe, reliable, and economic public utility and transportation services to Marylanders, the Public Service Commission (PSC) issues Certificates for Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), which provide authority for construction or modification of new generating stations or high voltage transmission lines.

This process already looks at the impacts of actions it presides over to determine the threats to aesthetic and historical values, air and water quality impacts but does not connect these dangers to the people that live nearby.

In recent years a growing number of Maryland residents and neighbors living near utility and infrastructure works, as well as public health professionals and advocates, have found that they are the last to know when an application is approved by the PSC, citing the opaque nature of public facing materials and no direct mandate to communicate with stakeholders. A rapid Health Impact Assessment (HIA) provides for a quick and inexpensive review of health at the local level and provides for a timely community meeting to discuss the result.

HIA's are performed

- on a computer.
- within a 30 day period.
- at no cost to tax payers.

MARYLANDERS NEED TO KNOW THAT HUMAN HEALTH IS COUNTED IN THE COSTS AT THE PSC!

The bill would direct applicants to the PSC making petitions for work to begin the process of running a report follow the established method of the HIA to get the Department of Health Data on the community where the work will occur. This happens at a much faster rate than a traditional environmental impact assessment at a much lower cost and in a much shorter time frame as an added value to public comment processes. And where environmental assessments are blind to people, a health impact assessment looks only at human health.

HIA's are equitable, diverting the costs of getting all the facts from cash strapped communities. Health professionals and academic institutions, environmentalists, and language access advocates support this bill. Support HIA's at the PSC for greater equity, access and justice in our state.

Support enhanced protections at the PSC in #MdGA19!

THE MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NETWORK PROMOTES THE
ELIMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS
TO IMPROVE HUMAN HEALTH.