

## **Prevailing Wage for Electric Utilities (HB61)**

This bill will require all work done on utilities—whether above or below ground—be done by contractors paying prevailing wages and benefits.

### **Background**

The Distribution System is the part of the energy grid that Maryland, through the Public Service Commission (PSC), regulates. How the Distribution Grid is planned and maintained will not only determine how reliable and resilient our energy system is but also whether we can reach our clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction goals. With the passage of the Climate Solutions Now Act in 2022, we have plans for historic investments in our distribution grid to meet our climate goals.

Electric lineworkers will be implementing these crucial improvements to the grid, and this bill will ensure that as we make the necessary investment in our grid, we are also building a strong middle class.

Currently, Maryland law requires that all work done on underground utilities (gas and electric) is done with contractors paying prevailing wages. This bill will establish parity so that work done on all utilities will be done by contractors paying prevailing wages.

### **Solution**

This bill **supports family-sustaining jobs** by requiring all distribution grid projects to:

- Offer the area prevailing wage
- Offer health care and retirement benefits
- Participate in apprenticeship programs registered with the state or U.S. Department of Labor
- Develop a plan to recruit and retain state residents, including returning citizens, women, minority individuals, and veterans
- Have been in compliance with federal, state, and local wage and hour laws for the previous 3 years

---

**For more information please contact:**

Delegate Lorig Charkoudian, [lorig.charkoudian@house.state.md.us](mailto:lorig.charkoudian@house.state.md.us)

Phone: 410-841-3423