

Introduced by: President Scott *Donsey, Burns, Bulak, Henry, N. SWEED*

Prepared by: Department of Legislative Reference <sup>COSTELLO</sup> Date: February 5, 2020 *M. D. Dutton*

Referred to: **RESOLUTION** Committee *Purkett  
Cosello  
Stokes  
Clarke  
Reisinger*

Also referred for recommendation and report to municipal agencies listed on reverse.

CITY COUNCIL 20 - 0197R

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

**In Support of Senate Bill 315/House Bill 561 – Community Choice Energy**

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Honorable Chair and Members of the Finance Committee and the Economic Matters Committee take this show of support under consideration during their deliberations on Senate Bill 315 and House Bill 561, respectively, both of which authorize a county or municipal organization or a group of counties or municipal corporations to form or join a community choice aggregator.

*[Handwritten signatures: Joseph J. Purkett, Mayor Donsey, Hank, Joe Lake, Robert Stokes, C. V. ...]*

**\*\*The introduction of an Ordinance or Resolution by Councilmembers at the request of any person, firm or organization is a courtesy extended by the Councilmembers and not an indication of their position.**

**Agencies**

_____	Baltimore City Public School System
_____	Baltimore Development Corporation
_____	City Solicitor
_____	Comptroller's Office
_____	Department of Audits
_____	Department of Finance
_____	Department of General Services
_____	Department of Housing and Community Development
_____	Department of Human Resources
_____	Department of Planning
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Department of Public Works
_____	Department of Real Estate
_____	Department of Recreation and Parks
_____	Department of Transportation
_____	Fire Department
_____	Health Department
_____	Mayor's Office of Employment Development
_____	Mayor's Office of Human Services
_____	Mayor's Office of Information Technology
_____	Office of the Mayor
_____	Police Department
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Board of Estimates
_____	Board of Ethics
_____	Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals
_____	Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation
_____	Commission on Sustainability
_____	Employees' Retirement System
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Environmental Control Board
_____	Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System
_____	Labor Commissioner
_____	Parking Authority Board
_____	Planning Commission
_____	Wage Commission
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____

**Boards and Commissions**

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 20-0197R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: President Scott, Councilmembers Dorsey, Bullock, Burnett, Henry, Cohen,  
Sneed, Middleton, Clarke, Reisinger, Pinkett, Costello, Stokes  
Introduced and adopted: February 10, 2020

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**In Support of Senate Bill 315/House Bill 561 – Community Choice Energy**

FOR the purpose of requesting that the Honorable Chair and Members of the Finance Committee and the Economic Matters Committee take this show of support under consideration during their deliberations on Senate Bill 315 and House Bill 561, respectively, both of which authorize a county or municipal organization or a group of counties or municipal corporations to form or join a community choice aggregator.

**Recitals**

Passage of this legislation, introduced by Senator Beidle and Delegate Charkoudian into the 2020 Maryland General Assembly, would authorize a county or municipal organization or a group of counties or municipal corporations to form or join a community choice aggregator. A community choice aggregator negotiates with producers of a utility service on behalf of groups of consumers.

The Community Choice Aggregation model, also known as Community Choice Energy, is a proven strategy to expand consumer choice, lower electric rates, and achieve state and local environmental goals. The Community Choice Energy model exists in eight states – California, Illinois, Ohio, Virginia, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts. The model allows local governments to aggregate their buying power to procure electricity for municipal, residential, and commercial customers in their jurisdictions. Under the model, the aggregator works in partnership with the incumbent investor-owned utility, which continues to provide power delivery, grid maintenance, certain customer programs, and consolidated customer billing.

The City of Baltimore values the health of our communities and our environment, and seeks to prevent the impacts of climate change. The City of Baltimore is committed to moving to 100% clean, renewable energy in a timely fashion, while also providing affordable rates to residents. Community Choice Energy currently serves millions of customers around the country and consistently provides for more choice than the dominant utility provider, has better rates than the dominant utility provider, provides more renewable energy options, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions more than the dominant utility provider. The Community Choice Energy model can provide significant local and regional economic development benefits including the opportunity to develop local power resources and implement a wide variety of local energy programs tailored to the needs of a community. The model also encourages transparency, which mitigates the harmful practices of some individual retail electric suppliers.

Senate Bill 315 and House Bill 561, two Community Choice Energy bills, have been introduced in the Economic Matters Committee and Finance Committee during the 2020 session

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

**Council Bill 20-0197R**

1 of the Maryland General Assembly. The Community Choice Energy model is self-funding, and  
2 enabling legislation would have no significant negative fiscal impacts on the State of Maryland  
3 or the municipalities that adopt it. The model, if determined to be technically and financially  
4 feasible for Maryland cities and towns, could provide substantial environmental and economic  
5 benefits to the residents and businesses of Baltimore.

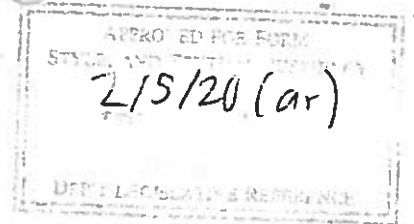
6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
7 Baltimore City Council requests that the Honorable Chair and Members of the Finance  
8 Committee and the Economic Matters Committee take this show of support under consideration  
9 during their deliberations on Senate Bill 315 and House Bill 561, respectively, both of which  
10 authorize a county or municipal organization or a group of counties or municipal corporations to  
11 form or join a community choice aggregator.

12 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Baltimore City Council further supports state  
13 enabling legislation that, at a minimum, allows a Community Choice Energy municipality or  
14 group of municipalities to:

- 15 • Procure electricity on behalf of the Community Choice Energy municipality's
- 16 residents, businesses, and municipal accounts;
- 17 • Automatically enroll residents and businesses that have not already chosen a third-
- 18 party supplier, while providing the residents and businesses ample opportunity to opt-
- 19 out of Community Choice Energy;
- 20 • Administer all energy efficiency funds paid by customers located within their
- 21 jurisdictional boundaries for purposes of promoting and funding local energy
- 22 efficiency programs; and
- 23 • Obtain funding for the development of local, small-scale renewable energy projects.

24 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the  
25 Mayor, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, the Honorable  
26 Chairs and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee, the Baltimore City Senate and  
27 House Delegations to the 2020 Maryland General Assembly, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison  
28 to the City Council.

**INTRODUCTORY\***  
**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_ R**  
**(Resolution)**



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Introduced by: President Scott

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

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The City of Baltimore values the health of our communities and our environment, and seeks to prevent the impacts of climate change. The City of Baltimore is committed to moving to 100% clean, renewable energy in a timely fashion, while also providing affordable rates to residents. Community Choice Energy currently serves millions of customers around the country and consistently provides for more choice than the dominant utility provider, has better rates than the dominant utility provider, provides more renewable energy options, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions more than the dominant utility provider. The Community Choice Energy model can provide significant local and regional economic development benefits including the opportunity to develop local power resources and implement a wide variety of local energy programs tailored to the needs of a community. The model also encourages transparency, which mitigates the harmful practices of some individual retail electric suppliers.

\* WARNING: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL, INTRODUCTORY COPY OF THE BILL.  
THE OFFICIAL COPY CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IS THE FIRST READER COPY.

Senate Bill 315 and House Bill 561, two Community Choice Energy bills, have been introduced in the Economic Matters Committee and Finance Committee during the 2020 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The Community Choice Energy model is self-funding, and enabling legislation would have no significant negative fiscal impacts on the State of Maryland or the municipalities that adopt it. The model, if determined to be technically and financially feasible for Maryland cities and towns, could provide substantial environmental and economic benefits to the residents and businesses of Baltimore.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the Baltimore City Council requests that the Honorable Chair and Members of the Finance Committee and the Economic Matters Committee take this show of support under consideration during their deliberations on Senate Bill 315 and House Bill 561, respectively, both of which authorize a county or municipal organization or a group of counties or municipal corporations to form or join a community choice aggregator.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That the Baltimore City Council further supports state enabling legislation that, at a minimum, allows a Community Choice Energy municipality or group of municipalities to:

- Procure electricity on behalf of the Community Choice Energy municipality's residents, businesses, and municipal accounts;
- Automatically enroll residents and businesses that have not already chosen a third-party supplier, while providing the residents and businesses ample opportunity to opt-out of Community Choice Energy;
- Administer all energy efficiency funds paid by customers located within their jurisdictional boundaries for purposes of promoting and funding local energy efficiency programs; and
- Obtain funding for the development of local, small-scale renewable energy projects.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the Mayor, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee, the Baltimore City Senate and House Delegations to the 2020 Maryland General Assembly, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.



**ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

FIRST READING (INTRODUCTION) \_\_\_\_\_ Feb 10 20 20

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEE REPORT AS OF \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FAVORABLE \_\_\_\_\_ UNFAVORABLE \_\_\_\_\_ FAVORABLE AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SECOND READING: The Council's action being favorable (unfavorable), this City Council bill was (was not) ordered printed for Third Reading on:

\_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (ENROLLED) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (RE-ENROLLED) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

WITHDRAWAL \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

There being no objections to the request for withdrawal, it was so ordered that this City Council Ordinance be withdrawn from the files of the City Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk