



Maryland  
Hospital Association

**House Bill 579 – Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and Related Approvals –  
Definition of Generating Stations  
(Critical Infrastructure Streamlining Act of 2024)**

**Position: *Support***  
February 20, 2024  
House Economic Matters Committee

**MHA Position**

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 579. This bill will streamline the regulatory approval process for backup generators.

Power outages impact many operational aspects of hospitals' care delivery including life support equipment, medical supply and vaccine refrigeration, medical equipment, surgical equipment, facility power, occupational safety, electronic medical records, and security systems.

As a result, hospital backup power systems are heavily regulated to ensure facilities are adequately prepared. Under federal regulation, backup power supplies must activate in less than 10 seconds and have enough fuel to run for 96 hours. Safety and maintenance codes are in place to ensure generator units have qualified personnel to perform maintenance and repairs, weekly inspections, and monthly testing.

Given the additional regulatory requirements governing hospital generators, a more streamlined regulatory process for hospital backup generators is both a reasonable and responsible approach.

For these reasons, we request a *favorable* report on HB 579.

For more information, please contact:  
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