

Janeese Lewis George

Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to the need to amend the Retail Electric Competition and Consumer Protection Act of 1999 to disallow electricity service disconnection in a period of time after an order approved by the Public Service Commission is vacated and remanded.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Rate Plan Vacatur Interim Protections Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026”.

Sec. 2. (a) In January 2026, District residents experienced an extreme hike in electricity rates leading to a spike in shutoff notices and reports of residents’ utilities bills doubling or raising hundreds of dollars in a single month. (more info on reports from residents)

(b) On March 5, 2026, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals vacated and remanded Orders Nos. 22328 and 22358 of the Public Service Commission which approved Potomac Electric Power Company’s (Pepco) multi-year rate plan and \$123.4 million rate increase over two years (Order No. 22328) and denied the Office of the People’s Counsel’s request to the Commission for reconsideration (Order No. 22358).

(c) Given this, the Commission should restore Pepco distribution rates to those established prior to Order No. 22328, last in effect in December 2024, as these were the last rates that maintain legal standing, per a recent filing by the Office of the People’s Counsel.

35 (d) Until the Commission takes action to reduce rates to their previous amount and bring
36 immediate relief to ratepayers, District residents should not experience instability caused by
37 having their electricity service disconnected, which many are at substantially higher risk of
38 because of the inaction of the Commission. It is necessary to pause disconnection of electricity to
39 ensure that District residents are not unnecessarily harmed while the Commission and Council
40 weigh what actions should be taken to ensure electricity affordability in the longer term.

41 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the circumstances in
42 section 2 constitute emergency circumstances, making it necessary that the Rate Plan Vacatur
43 Interim Protections Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2026 be adopted after a single reading.

44 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.