

BY: Appropriations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1258

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 15, after "1-703," insert "3-302(c)."; and in line 22, after "1-702(a)," insert "3-302(a).".

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, after line 29, insert:

"3-302.

(a) There is an Environmental Trust Fund. For the purpose of this subtitle, there is established as an added cost of electricity distributed to retail electric customers within the State, an environmental surcharge per kilowatt hour of electric energy distributed in the State to be paid by any electric company as defined in § 1-101 of the Public Utility Companies Article. The Public Service Commission shall impose the surcharge per kilowatt hour of electric energy distributed to retail electric customers within the State and shall authorize the electric companies to add the full amount of the surcharge to retail electric customers' bills. To the extent that the surcharge is not collected from retail electric customers, the surcharge shall be deemed a cost of distribution and shall be allowed and computed as such, together with other allowable expenses, for rate-making purposes. Revenues from the surcharge shall be collected by the Comptroller and placed in the Fund.

(c) (1) The Secretary shall administer the Fund. The Fund is subject to the provisions for financial management and budgeting established by the Department of Budget and Management. [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE moneys in the Fund shall be used to carry out the provisions of this subtitle as provided for in the budget, except that 10% of all moneys accruing to the Fund from July 1, 1978 through June 30, 1983 shall be used to supplement funds necessary to carry out the duties of the People's Counsel of the Public Service Commission. The People's Counsel shall submit an annual budget of necessary supplemental funds

(Over)

to the Department to be incorporated in the Department's budget. For the purposes of this subtitle, the Secretary, in consultation with the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, may execute appropriate contracts with any State or federal agency, research organization, industry, or academic institution to conduct the necessary research, construct or acquire, or both, real property including physical predictive models, laboratories, buildings, land, and appurtenances, or support the technological development of extraordinary systems related to power plants designed to minimize environmental impact. The Secretary may utilize available expertise in any other State unit in the development, execution, and management of contracts and agreements on projects relating to their areas of prime responsibility.

(2) MONEYS IN THE FUND MAY BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS CALCULATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 1-103(B)(2) OF THIS ARTICLE.”.