

HOUSE BILL 1580

C5

EMERGENCY BILL

9lr3500

By: **Delegate Conway**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: April 3, 2009

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Electric Companies – Payment Plans**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an electric company to offer to a certain residential
4 customer the opportunity to enroll in a certain payment plan under certain
5 circumstances; prohibiting an electric company from terminating electricity
6 service to a certain residential customer who is enrolled in a certain payment
7 plan for as long as the residential customer is making payments in accordance
8 with the payment plan; making this Act an emergency measure; providing for
9 the termination of this Act; and generally relating to a payment plan offered by
10 an electric company to residential electric customers whose account is in
11 arrears.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Public Utility Companies

14 Section 7–307.1

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Public Utility Companies**

20 **7–307.1.**

21 (A) **ON AND BEFORE JUNE 1, 2010, AN ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL**
22 **OFFER TO ANY RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER WHOSE ACCOUNT IS IN ARREARS THE**
23 **OPPORTUNITY TO ENROLL IN A PAYMENT PLAN THAT ALLOWS THE RESIDENTIAL**
24 **CUSTOMER TO PAY:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) 25% OF THE AMOUNT IN ARREARS WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER**
2 **THE RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER IS ENROLLED IN THE PAYMENT PLAN; AND**

3 **(2) THE BALANCE OF THE AMOUNT IN ARREARS IN EQUAL**
4 **INSTALLMENTS OVER A 24-MONTH PERIOD.**

5 **(B) AN ELECTRIC COMPANY MAY NOT TERMINATE ELECTRICITY**
6 **SERVICE TO A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER WHO IS ENROLLED IN THE PAYMENT**
7 **PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION FOR AS LONG AS**
8 **THE RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER IS MAKING PAYMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**
9 **PAYMENT PLAN.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
11 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
12 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
13 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
14 the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through August 1, 2012, and, at the end
15 of August 1, 2012, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
16 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.