

SENATE BILL 1051

C5

EMERGENCY BILL

9lr3455

By: **Senator Pugh**

Introduced and read first time: March 9, 2009

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission – Prohibition on Terminating Gas and Electric**
3 **Service – Residential Customers**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting an electric company or a gas and electric company
5 from terminating gas or electric service to a residential customer on or before a
6 certain date or during the pendency of the Commission’s investigation of a
7 certain complaint; defining a certain term; making this Act an emergency
8 measure; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the
9 investigation by the Public Service Commission of complaints by residential
10 customers about the cost of gas and electric service.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Public Utility Companies

13 Section 7–307.1

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Public Utility Companies**

19 **7–307.1.**

20 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “HEATING SEASON” MEANS THE PERIOD OF TIME
21 BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1, 2008, AND ENDING MARCH 31, 2009.

22 (B) (1) AN ELECTRIC COMPANY OR A GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
23 MAY NOT TERMINATE GAS OR ELECTRIC SERVICE ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2009,
24 TO A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER WHOSE ACCOUNT IS IN ARREARS.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) AFTER JUNE 1, 2009, AN ELECTRIC COMPANY OR A GAS AND**
2 **ELECTRIC COMPANY MAY NOT TERMINATE GAS OR ELECTRIC SERVICE TO A**
3 **RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER WHOSE ACCOUNT IS IN ARREARS DURING THE**
4 **PENDENCY OF AN INVESTIGATION BY THE COMMISSION OF A COMPLAINT BY**
5 **THE CUSTOMER ABOUT THE INCREASED COST OF GAS AND ELECTRIC SERVICE**
6 **DURING THE HEATING SEASON.**

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
8 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,
9 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members
10 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from
11 the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective through June 30, 2010, and, at the end
12 of June 30, 2011, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
13 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.