HOUSE BILL 587

C5 3lr1427

By: Delegate Davis

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2013

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN ACT concerning			
2 3	Electric Companies – Service Quality and Reliability Standards – Vegetation Management			
4 5 6 7	FOR the purpose of prohibiting a county or municipal corporation from enacting a local law that prevents an electric company from complying with certain vegetation management standards; defining a certain term; and generally relating to vegetation management.			
8 9 10 11 12	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Public Utilities Section 7–213(a) and (e) Annotated Code of Maryland (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)			
13 14 15 16 17	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Public Utilities Section 7–213(b), (c), and (d) Annotated Code of Maryland (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)			
18 19	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:			
20	Article – Public Utilities			
21	7–213.			
22	(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.			



1 2 3	(2) "System-average interruption duration index" or "SAIDI" means the sum of the customer interruption hours divided by the total number of customers served.			
4 5 6	(3) "System-average interruption frequency index" or "SAIFI" mean the sum of the number of customer interruptions divided by the total number of customers served.			
7 8 9 10	(4) "VEGETATION MANAGEMENT" MEANS THE ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY OR EASEMENTS OWNED BY AN ELECTRIC COMPANY BY PRUNING OR CLEARING VEGETATION NEAR TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION LINES.			
11 12 13 14	(b) It is the goal of the State that each electric company provide its customers with high levels of service quality and reliability in a cost-effective manner, as measured by objective and verifiable standards, and that each electric company be held accountable if it fails to deliver reliable service according to those standards.			
15 16	(c) This section does not apply to small rural electric cooperatives or municipal electric companies.			
17 18 19 20	(d) On or before July 1, 2012, the Commission shall adopt regulations that implement service quality and reliability standards relating to the delivery of electricity to retail customers by electric companies through their distribution systems, using:			
21	(1) SAIFI;			
22	(2) SAIDI; and			
23 24	(3) any other performance measurement that the Commission determines to be reasonable.			
25	(e) (1) The regulations adopted under subsection (d) of this section shall:			
26 27	(i) include service quality and reliability standards, including standards relating to:			
28	1. service interruption;			
29	2. downed wire response;			
30	3. customer communications;			
31	4. vegetation management;			
32	5. periodic equipment inspections;			

1		6. annual reliability reporting; and
2		7. any other standards established by the Commission;
3 4	(ii) control of an electric com	account for major outages caused by events outside the apany; and
5 6 7	1 0	for an electric company that fails to meet the applicable lability standards, require the company to file a corrective specific actions the company will take to meet the standards.
8 9 10	include a separate relia	regulations adopted under subsection (d) of this section may bility standard for each electric company in order to account ferentiating factors, including:
11	(i)	system design;
12	(ii)	existing infrastructure;
13	(iii)	customer density; and
14	(iv)	geography.
15 16	(3) In ac section, the Commission	dopting the regulations required under subsection (d) of this shall:
17 18	(i) and Electronics Enginee	consider applicable standards of the Institute of Electrical rs;
19 20	cost–effective; and	ensure that the service quality and reliability standards are
21 22	(iii) management, consider:	with respect to standards relating to vegetation
23 24	private property; and	1. limitations on an electric company's right to access
25 26	initiatives.	2. customer acceptance of vegetation management
27 28 29 30	LOCAL LAW FOR THE F PREVENTS AN ELECTE	OUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY NOT ENACT A LANTING, CARE, AND PROTECTION OF VEGETATION THAT RIC COMPANY FROM COMPLYING WITH THE VEGETATION RDS ADOPTED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 2 $\,$ July 1, 2013.