

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 **Electric Companies – Service Quality and Reliability Standards – Vegetation**
3 **Management**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a county or municipal corporation from enacting a
5 local law that prevents an electric company from complying with certain
6 vegetation management standards; defining a certain term; and generally
7 relating to vegetation management.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Public Utilities
10 Section 7–213(a) and (e)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
14 Article – Public Utilities
15 Section 7–213(b), (c), and (d)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
19 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.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 6. annual reliability reporting; and
- 2 7. any other standards established by the Commission;
- 3 (ii) account for major outages caused by events outside the
4 control of an electric company; and
- 5 (iii) for an electric company that fails to meet the applicable
6 service quality and reliability standards, require the company to file a corrective
7 action plan that details specific actions the company will take to meet the standards.

8 (2) The regulations adopted under subsection (d) of this section may
9 include a separate reliability standard for each electric company in order to account
10 for system reliability differentiating factors, including:

- 11 (i) system design;
- 12 (ii) existing infrastructure;
- 13 (iii) customer density; and
- 14 (iv) geography.

15 (3) In adopting the regulations required under subsection (d) of this
16 section, the Commission shall:

- 17 (i) consider applicable standards of the Institute of Electrical
18 and Electronics Engineers;
- 19 (ii) ensure that the service quality and reliability standards are
20 cost-effective; and
- 21 (iii) with respect to standards relating to vegetation
22 management, consider:
- 23 1. limitations on an electric company's right to access
24 private property; and
- 25 2. customer acceptance of vegetation management
26 initiatives.

27 **(4) A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION MAY NOT ENACT A**
28 **LOCAL LAW FOR THE PLANTING, CARE, AND PROTECTION OF VEGETATION THAT**
29 **PREVENTS AN ELECTRIC COMPANY FROM COMPLYING WITH THE VEGETATION**
30 **MANAGEMENT STANDARDS ADOPTED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.**

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