

HOUSE BILL 928

C5

4r1388
CF SB 1044

By: **Delegates Rudolph and James**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2014

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 2014

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission – Competitive Retail Electricity and Gas Supply –**
3 **Consumer Protection – Report**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to submit a certain
5 report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date on the status of the
6 Commission's efforts to provide appropriate protections for consumers in
7 connection with competitive retail electricity supply and retail gas supply and
8 recommendations regarding ratepayer protections; specifying the contents of
9 the report; requiring the Commission to convene a certain workgroup for a
10 certain purpose; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating
11 to consumer protection in connection with competitive retail electricity and gas
12 supply.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That:

15 (a) On or before January 1, 2015, the Public Service Commission shall
16 submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State
17 Government Article, on the status of the Commission's efforts to provide appropriate
18 protections for consumers in connection with competitive retail gas supply and
19 competitive retail electricity supply, and recommendations as to how to better protect
20 ratepayers.

21 (b) The report shall include information and recommendations concerning:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (1) the adequacy of the Commission's current retail electricity and gas
2 customer choice consumer protection regulations;

3 (2) the adequacy of the Commission's enforcement of current
4 electricity and gas customer choice consumer protection laws and regulations;

5 (3) whether to require further safeguards in connection with the
6 verification of retail electricity or gas contracts;

7 (4) whether to require further safeguards in connection with consumer
8 comprehension of retail electricity or gas contracts;

9 (5) whether to require licensing of individuals who sell or facilitate the
10 sale of retail electricity or gas contracts;

11 (6) any other issues the Commission considers relevant to these
12 issues; and

13 (7) whether legislation is necessary to further any recommendations
14 in the report, and if so, shall include draft legislation of any necessary statutory
15 changes.

16 (c) The Commission shall convene a workgroup of interested persons,
17 including retail electricity suppliers, to advise the Commission on the information and
18 recommendations that should be included in the report.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 June 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 2 months and, at the
21 end of July 31, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
22 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.