

# HOUSE BILL 1485

C5

4lr3269

---

By: **Delegate Conaway**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Electricity – Smart Meter Installation – Disclosure and Consent**  
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting an electric company from installing a smart meter on a  
5 customer's premises without the explicit written consent of the customer;  
6 requiring a certain electric company to give certain written notice to certain  
7 customers before installing smart meters on a customer's premises under  
8 certain circumstances; specifying the contents of a certain notice; defining a  
9 certain term; and generally relating to electricity service and smart meters.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Public Utilities  
12 Section 7–302.1  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Public Utilities**

18 **7–302.1.**

19 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “SMART METER” MEANS A DIGITAL METER THAT**  
20 **ALLOWS TWO–WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AN ELECTRIC CUSTOMER’S**  
21 **PREMISES AND AN ELECTRIC COMPANY THROUGH A WIRELESS NETWORK.**

22 **(B) AN ELECTRIC COMPANY MAY NOT INSTALL A SMART METER ON A**  
23 **CUSTOMER’S PREMISES WITHOUT THE EXPLICIT WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE**  
24 **CUSTOMER.**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(C) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, IF AN ELECTRIC**  
2 **COMPANY DEPLOYS SMART METERS THROUGHOUT ALL OR A PORTION OF THE**  
3 **ELECTRIC COMPANY'S SERVICE TERRITORY, THE ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL**  
4 **GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE DEPLOYMENT TO EACH CUSTOMER IN THE**  
5 **AFFECTED PORTION OF THE SERVICE TERRITORY.**

6           **(2) THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
7 **SUBSECTION SHALL:**

8                   **(I) DISCLOSE ANY COSTS TO THE CUSTOMER ASSOCIATED**  
9 **WITH THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A SMART METER ON THE**  
10 **CUSTOMER'S PREMISES; AND**

11                   **(II) CONSPICUOUSLY STATE THAT THE CUSTOMER HAS THE**  
12 **OPTION TO REFUSE THE INSTALLATION OF A SMART METER BY:**

13                           **1. RETURN MAILING OF THE NOTICE INDICATING**  
14 **THE CUSTOMER'S DECISION TO REFUSE THE INSTALLATION OF A SMART METER;**  
15 **OR**

16                           **2. TAKING NO ACTION.**

17           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**  
18 **June 1, 2014.**