

HOUSE BILL 236

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(PRE-FILED)

4lr0220

CF 4lr0219

By: **Chair, Economic Matters Committee (By Request – Departmental – Maryland Energy Administration)**

Requested: September 13, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission – Electricity Supply and Consumer Protections**
3 **– Regulations and Orders**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to adopt regulations or orders
5 regarding the marketing of and contracting for certain electricity supply; and
6 generally relating to electricity supply.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Public Utilities
9 Section 7–507(e)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Public Utilities**

15 7–507.

16 (e) The Commission shall adopt regulations or issue orders to:

17 (1) protect consumers, electric companies, and electricity suppliers from
18 anticompetitive and abusive practices;

19 (2) require each electricity supplier to provide, in addition to the
20 requirements under § 7–505(b)(5) of this subtitle, adequate and accurate customer
21 information to enable customers to make informed choices regarding the purchase of any
22 electricity services offered by the electricity supplier;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) establish reasonable restrictions on telemarketing AND IN-PERSON
2 **MARKETING;**

3 (4) **ESTABLISH LICENSING PROCEDURES, FEES, AND REPORTING**
4 **REQUIREMENTS FOR DOOR-TO-DOOR MARKETING BY INDIVIDUALS AND**
5 **ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS;**

6 (5) establish procedures for contracting with customers;

7 (6) **PROHIBIT CONTRACT PERIODS OF MORE THAN 1 YEAR FOR**
8 **VARIABLE PRICE RESIDENTIAL SUPPLY CONTRACTS;**

9 (7) **REQUIRE THAT ALL RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS BE RETURNED TO**
10 **STANDARD OFFER SERVICE AT THE EXPIRATION OF A VARIABLE PRICE RESIDENTIAL**
11 **SUPPLY CONTRACT UNLESS A NEW CONTRACT IS CREATED AND EXECUTED BY THE**
12 **RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER;**

13 (8) **REQUIRE THAT ALL OFFERS AND CONTRACTS FOR RESIDENTIAL**
14 **SUPPLY PROMINENTLY DISPLAY INFORMATION ON STANDARD OFFER SERVICE,**
15 **INCLUDING THE CURRENT STANDARD OFFER SERVICE PRICE AND ANY OTHER**
16 **INFORMATION CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE COMMISSION;**

17 (9) **PROHIBIT THE USE OF COMMISSION-BASED OR**
18 **PAY-PER-CONTRACT COMPENSATION FOR CUSTOMER CHOICE MARKETING**
19 **EMPLOYEES OR CONTRACTORS;**

20 [[5]] (10) establish requirements and limitations relating to deposits,
21 billing, collections, and contract cancellations;

22 [[6]] (11) establish provisions providing for the referral of a delinquent
23 account by an electricity supplier to the standard offer service under § 7-510(c) of this
24 subtitle; and

25 [[7]] (12) establish procedures for dispute resolution.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2024.