

Department of Fiscal Services  
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 851 (Senator Miller)  
Finance

Referred to Environmental Matters

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**Task Force to Study Retail Electric Competition and the Restructuring of the  
Electric Utility Industry**

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This enrolled emergency bill establishes a 20-member task force comprised of members of the legislative and executive branches to study retail electric competition and the restructuring of the electric utility industry. It also establishes an advisory group comprised of energy industry representatives and electric customer representatives to assist the task force in its deliberations. The task force is required to: (1) conduct hearings and solicit comments; (2) evaluate the impact of implementing retail electric competition on Maryland generators of electricity; (3) evaluate and produce a report on the potential costs and benefits of retail electric competition to Maryland citizens and businesses; (4) study retail competition in other states; (5) study the restructuring of electric utility industry in other states; (6) evaluate associated tax and regulatory issues; (7) evaluate the impact on alternative energy sources; (8) evaluate the impact on the public service functions provided by regulated electrical utilities; (9) evaluate and recommend whether and under what terms retail electric competition should be offered in Maryland, and make recommendations concerning the restructuring of the electric utility industry in Maryland; and (10) determine if legislation should be introduced and, if so, draft a model for the legislation. The Departments of Legislative Reference and Fiscal Services will staff the task force. The task force must issue its final report to the General Assembly on or before December 15, 1997.

The bill sunsets June 30, 1998.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None, as discussed below.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None. The bill does not directly affect small business.

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## Fiscal Analysis

**State Expenditures:** Task force members will be reimbursed for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. Such expenditures depend on the time, location and frequency of the task force's meetings. Expenses are assumed to be minimal and absorbable with the existing budgeted resources of the Governor's Office and the governmental entities represented on the task force. Staff support for the task force can be provided by the Department of Legislative Reference and the Department of Fiscal Services with existing personnel.

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**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Reference, Governor's Office, Public Service Commission, Department of Fiscal Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 1997  
ncs Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 24, 1997  
Revised - Enrolled Bill - April 22, 1997

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