

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
1999 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 335 (Delegate Morhaim. *et al.*)

Environmental Matters

Electric Utility Restructuring - Prior Approval

This bill prohibits the Public Service Commission (PSC) from implementing retail customer choice in the electric utility industry without prior approval of the General Assembly through enacted legislation, except as required to address deregulation of the wholesale electric utility industry as required by federal law.

The bill authorizes the PSC to: (1) conduct proceedings to obtain information necessary to implement restructuring of the electric utility industry through fact-finding proceedings, adjudications, and roundtables; and (2) identify and regulate separate components of the retail electric utility industry. However, the bill prohibits the PSC from deregulating a component of the electric utility industry, or implementing final rates, or other regulatory control mechanisms for a deregulated component of the electric utility industry, other than on a wholesale level.

The bill is effective on June 1, 1999.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Any change in Public Service Commission activities would not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Information Source: Public Service Commission

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 1999

dmm\jr

Analysis by: Jo Ellan Jordan

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510