

SENATE BILL 61

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2000 Regular Session
0lr0033

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chairman, Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee**
(Departmental - Energy Administration, Maryland)

Requested: October 5, 1999

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2000

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Standby Petroleum Fuel Set-Aside Program - Extension**

3 FOR the purpose of continuing the existence of the State Standby Petroleum Fuel
4 Set-Aside Program by extending to a certain date the termination provisions for
5 the Program.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments
8 Section 10-811
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

11 **Preamble**

12 WHEREAS, Adequate supplies of fuel are essential to the protection of the
13 public health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State of Maryland; and

14 WHEREAS, Any severe disruption in fuel supplied for use within the State
15 would cause grave hardship and pose a threat to the health and economic well-being
16 of the people of State; and

17 WHEREAS, The existing petroleum distribution system serves the needs of
18 Maryland fuel users and can be expected to do so until an acute shortage in petroleum
19 supplies occurs; and

20 WHEREAS, Pursuant to federal law, including the Emergency Petroleum
21 Allocation Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-159), as amended by the Energy Policy and
22 Conservation Act (P.L. 94-163), the Maryland Energy Administration has extensive
23 experience administering the State set-aside program; and

24 WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 12287 ended the federal petroleum pricing and
25 allocation controls, including the State set-aside program on January 28, 1981; and

1 WHEREAS, The provisions of the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973,
2 as amended by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, authorizing the
3 implementation of a State set-aside program, terminated on September 30, 1981; and

4 WHEREAS, The General Assembly responded to the termination of that Act by
5 enacting Chapter 364 of the Acts of 1982, which created the State Standby Petroleum
6 Fuel Set-Aside Program, which can be activated upon declaration by the Governor of
7 an energy emergency to mitigate hardships and emergency conditions caused by a
8 fuel shortage; and

9 WHEREAS, The provisions of the State Standby Petroleum Fuel Set-Aside
10 Program were last extended by the General Assembly in 1995 and the Program will
11 now terminate on July 1, 2000; and

12 WHEREAS, It is in the public interest for the State of Maryland to establish and
13 maintain in a state of readiness the State Standby Petroleum Set-Aside Program,
14 which can be activated upon declaration of the Governor of an energy emergency to
15 mitigate hardships and emergency conditions caused by a fuel shortage; now,
16 therefore,

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

19 **Article 41 - Governor - Executive and Administrative Departments**

20 10-811.

21 This subtitle shall remain effective only until July 1, [2000] 2005, and, at the
22 end of June 30, [2000,] 2005, with no further action required by the General
23 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 July 1, 2000.