

HOUSE BILL 1375

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2002 Regular Session
2lr2956
CF SB 681

By: **Delegates Krysiak, C. Davis, Hammen, Dypski, Branch, Cole, Dobson,
Doory, Fulton, Gladden, Harrison, Phillips, Kirk, Marriott, McHale,
McIntosh, Montague, Oaks, Paige, Rawlings, and Rosenberg**

Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2002

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utilities - Unclaimed Funds - Energy Assistance**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Comptroller of Maryland to distribute a certain
4 percentage of the unclaimed remittance funds from gas and electric public
5 utilities to the Victorine Q. Adams Fuel Fund and certain other community
6 action agencies throughout Maryland for use of critical need energy assistance;
7 and generally relating to the distribution of certain moneys to certain
8 community action agencies for energy assistance.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Commercial Law
11 Section 17-317
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - Commercial Law**

17 17-317.

18 (a) (1) All funds received under this title, including the proceeds of the sale
19 of abandoned property under § 17-316 of this subtitle, shall be credited by the
20 administrator to a special fund. The administrator shall retain in the special fund at
21 the end of each fiscal year, from the proceeds received, an amount not to exceed
22 \$50,000, from which sum the administrator shall pay any claim allowed under this
23 title.

24 (2) After deducting all costs incurred in administering this title from the
25 remaining net funds the administrator shall distribute:

1 (I) \$500,000 to the Maryland Legal Services Corporation to support
2 the activities of the corporation; AND

3 (II) 75% OF THE PORTION OF THE FUND WHICH ORIGINATES FROM
4 BOTH UNCLAIMED DEPOSITS AND UNCLAIMED REBATES FROM GAS COMPANIES AND
5 ELECTRIC COMPANIES TO THE VICTORINE Q. ADAMS FUEL FUND IN BALTIMORE CITY
6 AND TO COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES, AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 83B, § 12-101 OF
7 THE CODE, IN EACH OTHER REGION OF THE STATE, BASED THE USAGE OF ENERGY
8 ASSISTANCE IN EACH REGION AND BALTIMORE CITY IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR FOR
9 THE PURPOSE OF CRITICAL NEED ENERGY ASSISTANCE.

10 (3) FUNDS DISTRIBUTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(II) OF THIS
11 SUBSECTION MAY BE TRANSFERRED AMONG THE RECEIVING AGENCIES SO LONG AS
12 THE FUNDS ARE USED FOR CRITICAL NEED ENERGY ASSISTANCE IN THE STATE.

13 [(3)] (4) After making the distribution required under paragraph (2) of
14 this subsection, the administrator shall distribute the remaining net funds not
15 retained under paragraph (1) of this subsection to the General Fund of the State.

16 (b) Before making the distribution, the administrator shall record the name
17 and last known address, if any, of the owners of funds so distributed and the type of
18 property which the funds distributed represent. The record shall be available for
19 public inspection during reasonable business hours by any person who claims a legal
20 interest in any property held by the administrator, provided that the person gives
21 prior notice to the administrator.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2002.