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25 fund.

2002 Regular Session 2lr2843

By: Senator Bromwell Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2002 Assigned to: Rules A BILL ENTITLED 1 AN ACT concerning 2 **Universal Service Program Fund - Retention of Funds** 3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Public Service Commission to retain certain funds in the universal service program fund at the end of any given fiscal year 4 5 and make the funds available for disbursement during the next fiscal year; 6 providing for the effective date of this Act; extending the provisions relating to retention of certain funds in the universal service program fund; and generally 7 8 relating to the universal service fund. 9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article - Public Utility Companies 10 11 Section 7-512.1(h) Annotated Code of Maryland 12 (1998 Volume and 2001 Supplement) 13 14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Chapter 433 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2001 15 Section 3 16 17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: 19 **Article - Public Utility Companies** 20 7-512.1. 21 In this subsection, "fund" means the universal service program fund. (h) (1) 22 There is a universal service program fund. (2) 23 (3) (i) 1. The Comptroller shall collect the revenue collected by 24 electric companies under subsection (b) of this section and place the revenue into the

SENATE BILL 832

1 2	2. The General Assembly may appropriate funds supplemental to the funds collected under sub-subparagraph 1 of this subparagraph.
3	(ii) The fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.
5 6	(iii) The purpose of the fund is to assist electric customers as provided in subsection (a)(1) of this section.
	(4) The Department of Human Resources, with oversight by the Commission, shall disburse the funds in accordance with the provisions of this section.
	(5) In any year when there are unexpended funds, those funds shall be returned to the customer classes proportionate to how the customer classes paid into the fund.
15	(6) Notwithstanding paragraph (5) of this subsection, the Commission may retain any unexpended funds in the fund at the end of [June 30, 2001] ANY GIVEN FISCAL YEAR and make the funds available for disbursement through [June 30, 2002] THE END OF THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR to electric customers who:
17 18	(i) [qualify] QUALIFIED for assistance from the fund during THE GIVEN fiscal year [2001]; and
19 20	(ii) [apply] APPLIED for assistance from the fund [before July 1, 2001] DURING THE GIVEN FISCAL YEAR.
21	Chapter 433 of the Acts of 2001
24	SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of [1 year] 2 YEARS and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, [2002] 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.
26 27	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2002.