

SENATE BILL 832

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2002 Regular Session
2lr2843

By: **Senator Bromwell**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2002

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Finance, February 20, 2002

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2002

CHAPTER _____

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
4 funds in the universal service program fund at the end of any given fiscal year
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
7 retention of certain funds in the universal service program fund; and generally
8 relating to the universal service fund.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Public Utility Companies
11 Section 7-512.1(h)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1998 Volume and 2001 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Chapter 433 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2001
16 Section 3

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

1

Article - Public Utility Companies

2 7-512.1.

3 (h) (1) In this subsection, "fund" means the universal service program fund.

4 (2) There is a universal service program fund.

5 (3) (i) 1. The Comptroller shall collect the revenue collected by
6 electric companies under subsection (b) of this section and place the revenue into the
7 fund.8 2. The General Assembly may appropriate funds
9 supplemental to the funds collected under sub-subparagraph 1 of this subparagraph.10 (ii) The fund is a continuing, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to
11 § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.12 (iii) The purpose of the fund is to assist electric customers as
13 provided in subsection (a)(1) of this section.14 (4) The Department of Human Resources, with oversight by the
15 Commission, shall disburse the funds in accordance with the provisions of this
16 section.17 (5) In any year when there are unexpended funds, those funds shall be
18 returned to the customer classes proportionate to how the customer classes paid into
19 the fund.20 (6) Notwithstanding paragraph (5) of this subsection, the Commission
21 may retain any unexpended funds in the fund at the end of [June 30, 2001] ANY
22 GIVEN FISCAL YEAR and make the funds available for disbursement through [June
23 30, 2002] THE END OF THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR to electric customers who:24 (i) [qualify] QUALIFIED for assistance from the fund during THE
25 GIVEN fiscal year [2001]; and26 (ii) [apply] APPLIED for assistance from the fund [before July 1,
27 2001] DURING THE GIVEN FISCAL YEAR.

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Chapter 433 of the Acts of 200129 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 June 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of [1 year] 2 YEARS and 1 month
31 and, at the end of June 30, [2002] 2003, with no further action required by the
32 General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
34 June 1, 2002.

