

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1280 (Delegate Klausmeier)
Environmental Matters

Electric Companies and Gas Companies - Use of Trade Names and Trademarks

This bill prohibits a person from using, as part of its trade name or trademark, the trade name or trademark of an electric or gas company if the person is owned wholly or in part, directly or indirectly, by the electric or gas company or the parent company of the electric or gas company. The provisions of the bill apply to all trade names or trademarks used after the bill's May 1, 2003 effective date.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's changes could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: There are no statutory provisions governing the use of a trade name or trademark between a public service company and an affiliate. However, the Public Service Commission (PSC) issued standards of conduct in 1998 relating to utilities and transactions with core-service and non core-service affiliates. While the standards prohibit any preferences for regulated utility services for a customer who uses an affiliate's services or products, it was determined that advertising material used by the utility or its non core-service affiliate may identify the affiliate's association with the utility.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 783 (Senator Bromwell) – Finance.

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission, Department of Legislative Services

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