

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2002 Session

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Revised**

Senate Bill 783

(Senator Bromwell)

Finance

Environmental Matters

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

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This bill prohibits a person who sells, markets, installs, maintains, repairs, or provides specified products or services 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 May 1, 2003 effective date.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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**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 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.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1280 (Delegate Klausmeier) – Environmental Matters.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 11, 2002  
lsc/cer Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 27, 2002

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