
By: Senator Middleton

Introduced and read first time: March 6, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Gas Companies, Electric Companies, Propane Gas Entities, and Home**
3 **Heating Oil Entities - Matching Donation Program**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each gas company and electric company to establish a
5 matching donation program to provide low-income customers with gas and
6 electric bill assistance; requiring the Maryland Energy Administration to
7 require each supplier and each wholesale purchaser-reseller that sells propane
8 gas or home heating oil directly to customers for use in heating homes to
9 establish a matching donation program to provide low-income customers with
10 propane gas and home heating oil bill assistance; requiring the program to be
11 maintained and administered by a nonprofit organization that assists
12 low-income families with energy bill assistance; requiring the program to
13 consist of donations by certain ratepayers and customers and certain matching
14 contributions; requiring gas companies and electric companies to encourage
15 their ratepayers to participate in the program and match a certain amount in
16 each year; requiring the Administration to require certain suppliers and
17 wholesale purchaser-resellers to encourage their customers to participate in the
18 program and match a certain amount in each year; requiring the Public Service
19 Commission to issue an order or adopt regulations that require a certain report;
20 requiring the Administration to adopt regulations that require a certain report;
21 and generally relating to the establishment of a matching donation program by
22 gas companies, electric companies, propane gas entities, and home heating oil
23 entities to assist low-income customers with energy bills.

24 BY adding to
25 Article - Public Utility Companies
26 Section 7-309
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (1998 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

29 BY adding to
30 Article - State Government
31 Section 9-2009
32 Annotated Code of Maryland

1 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

4 **Article - Public Utility Companies**

5 7-309.

6 (A) EACH GAS COMPANY AND EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL ESTABLISH A
7 MATCHING DONATION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS WITH GAS
8 AND ELECTRIC BILL ASSISTANCE.

9 (B) THE MATCHING DONATION PROGRAM SHALL:

10 (1) BE MAINTAINED AND ADMINISTERED BY A NONPROFIT
11 ORGANIZATION THAT ASSISTS LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WITH ENERGY BILL
12 ASSISTANCE; AND

13 (2) CONSIST OF:

14 (I) DONATIONS BY RATEPAYERS OF EACH GAS COMPANY AND
15 EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY; AND

16 (II) A MATCHING CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY EACH GAS
17 COMPANY AND EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY.

18 (C) EACH GAS COMPANY AND EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL:

19 (1) ENCOURAGE ITS RATEPAYERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM;
20 AND

21 (2) MATCH AT LEAST THE SAME AMOUNT OF TOTAL FUNDS THAT ARE
22 DONATED BY ITS RATEPAYERS IN EACH YEAR.

23 (D) THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE AN ORDER OR ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT
24 REQUIRE EACH GAS COMPANY AND EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY TO REPORT EACH
25 YEAR ON ITS PROGRAM.

26 **Article - State Government**

27 9-2009.

28 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
29 INDICATED.

30 (2) "SUPPLIER" MEANS A BUSINESS ENTITY OR A PART OF A SUBSIDIARY
31 OF A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT SUPPLIES, SELLS, TRANSFERS, OR OTHERWISE
32 FURNISHES, INCLUDING BY CONSIGNMENT, PROPANE GAS OR HOME HEATING OIL
33 TO CONSUMERS OR WHOLESALE PURCHASER-RESELLERS.

1 (3) "WHOLESALE PURCHASER-RESELLER" MEANS A BUSINESS ENTITY
2 THAT:

3 (I) PURCHASES, RECEIVES THROUGH TRANSFER, OR OTHERWISE
4 OBTAINS, INCLUDING BY CONSIGNMENT, PROPANE GAS OR HOME HEATING OIL; AND

5 (II) RESELLS OR OTHERWISE TRANSFERS PROPANE GAS OR HOME
6 HEATING OIL TO CUSTOMERS WITHOUT SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGING ITS FORM.

7 (B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL REQUIRE EACH SUPPLIER AND EACH
8 WHOLESALE PURCHASER-RESELLER THAT SELLS PROPANE GAS OR HOME HEATING
9 OIL DIRECTLY TO INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMERS FOR USE IN HEATING HOMES TO
10 ESTABLISH A MATCHING DONATION PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LOW-INCOME
11 CUSTOMERS WITH PROPANE GAS AND HOME HEATING OIL BILL ASSISTANCE.

12 (C) THE MATCHING DONATION PROGRAM SHALL:

13 (1) BE MAINTAINED AND ADMINISTERED BY A NONPROFIT
14 ORGANIZATION THAT ASSISTS LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WITH ENERGY BILL
15 ASSISTANCE; AND

16 (2) CONSIST OF:

17 (I) DONATIONS BY CUSTOMERS OF EACH SUPPLIER AND EACH
18 WHOLESALE PURCHASER-RESELLER; AND

19 (II) A MATCHING CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY EACH SUPPLIER
20 AND EACH WHOLESALE PURCHASER-RESELLER.

21 (D) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL REQUIRE EACH SUPPLIER AND EACH
22 WHOLESALE PURCHASER-RESELLER TO:

23 (1) ENCOURAGE ITS CUSTOMERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM;
24 AND

25 (2) MATCH AT LEAST THE SAME AMOUNT OF TOTAL FUNDS THAT ARE
26 DONATED BY ITS CUSTOMERS IN EACH YEAR.

27 (E) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT REQUIRE EACH
28 SUPPLIER AND EACH WHOLESALE PURCHASER-RESELLER TO REPORT EACH YEAR
29 ON ITS PROGRAM.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
31 effect October 1, 2006.