

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 936

(Senator Della, *et al.*)

Finance

Economic Matters

Public Utility Companies - Steam Heating Companies

This bill subjects steam heating companies to regulation by the Public Service Commission (PSC), including rate verification and justification. A steam heating company means a company that manufactures, sells, or distributes steam for use, sale, or distribution.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: Baltimore City operations and finances would not be materially affected.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal. Small businesses currently served by a steam heating company could potentially benefit from PSC regulation if their costs were reduced or increases were limited.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapter 605 of 1999 repealed PSC regulation of steam heating companies. PSC originally began the regulation of steam heating companies in the early 1900s, and the companies were essentially regulated in the same manner as other utility companies. By 1999, Trigen Company was the only steam heating company operating in the State, with around 1,500 customers. Trigen serves the business community in downtown Baltimore; it has no residential customers at this time.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): State Department of Assessments and Taxation, Comptroller's Office, Public Service Commission, Office of People's Counsel, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2006
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