

**SB0491/787676/1**

BY: Finance Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 491

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, at the top of the page, strike “EMERGENCY BILL”; in line 2, strike “Electricity Rates for” and substitute “Electric Universal Service Program –”; in the same line, after “Tenants” insert “and Condominium Owners – Study”; in lines 2 and 3, strike “of Nonresidential Customers”; strike beginning with “to” in line 4 down through “term;” in line 12 and substitute “, the Office of Home Energy Programs in the Department of Human Resources, and the Office of People’s Counsel to meet to discuss certain options for expanding the electric universal service program to include assistance to certain low-income residential tenants of apartments and low-income residential condominium owners who are not actual customers of an electric company; specifying items that the agencies shall consider in discussing certain options; requiring the Commission to report to certain committees by a certain date;”; in line 13, strike “electricity rates” and substitute “a study of expanding the electric universal service program”; in the same line, after “tenants” insert “and condominium owners”; in the same line, strike “of nonresidential customers”; and strike in their entirety lines 14 through 23, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, in line 2, strike “the Laws of Maryland read as follows”.

On pages 2 and 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 3 on page 2 through line 15 on page 3, inclusive, and substitute:

“(a) The Public Service Commission, the Office of Home Energy Programs in the Department of Human Resources, and the Office of People’s Counsel shall meet to discuss options for expanding the electric universal service program to include

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assistance to low-income residential tenants of apartments and low-income residential condominium owners who are not actual customers of an electric company.

(b) In discussing options, the agencies shall consider:

(1) the estimated number of tenants of apartments and condominium owners who could be income eligible under the electric universal service program;

(2) other programs that are currently available to low-income residential tenants of apartments and low-income residential condominium owners, including the Maryland Energy Assistance Program and rental assistance programs;

(3) how to determine the amount of assistance that could be provided under the electric universal service program to income eligible tenants of apartments and owners of condominiums who are served by a master meter or by a sub-meter;

(4) how the payment of assistance from the electric universal service program would be provided in a manner that ensures that tenants of apartments and owners of condominiums directly benefit from the assistance;

(5) how budget billing requirements of the electric universal service program would apply to tenants of apartments and owners of condominiums;

(6) the impact on current participants of the electric universal service program of expanding the program to include assistance to tenants of apartments and residential condominium owners;

(7) the impact on the current funding level and the need to increase the funding level, of the electric universal service program of expanding the program to include assistance to tenants of apartments and residential condominium owners;

(8) the impact on the operation and administration of the electric universal service program of expanding the program to include assistance to tenants of apartments and residential condominium owners;

(9) how outreach programs could be put in place to notify tenants of apartments and owners of condominiums about the electric universal service program;

(10) any administrative and legislative changes that would be needed to expand the electric universal service program to include assistance to income eligible tenants of apartments and owners of condominiums; and

(11) how outreach programs could be put in place to encourage landlords of apartments and condominium associations to competitively shop for electric supply services for their apartment tenants and condominium owners.

(c) On or before October 1, 2007, the Public Service Commission shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Economic Matters Committee, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, on the findings and recommendations of the agencies.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2007.”.