

HOUSE BILL 453

C5

9lr0401

By: **Delegates Haynes, Aumann, Barnes, Benson, Braveboy, Bromwell, Carr, Carter, G. Clagett, Conaway, DeBoy, Doory, Frick, Frush, Gaines, Gilchrist, Glenn, Gutierrez, Guzzone, Hammen, Holmes, Hucker, Ivey, James, Kaiser, Kirk, Manno, Mizeur, Montgomery, Nathan-Pulliam, Pena-Melnyk, Ramirez, Reznik, Rice, Robinson, Rosenberg, Ross, Schuler, Stukes, Taylor, F. Turner, V. Turner, Valderrama, and Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2009

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Companies – Termination of Electric and Gas Service –**
3 **Extreme Temperatures**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a public service company from terminating electric or
5 gas service to a residential customer because of nonpayment on a day for which
6 the forecasted high temperature is at or below a certain temperature;
7 prohibiting a public service company from terminating electric service to a
8 residential customer because of nonpayment on certain days if the forecasted
9 heat index is at or above a certain level; requiring the Public Service
10 Commission to adopt regulations to carry out this Act; and generally relating to
11 public service companies and the termination of electric and gas service to
12 residential customers.

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Public Utility Companies
15 Section 7–307.1
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Public Utility Companies**

21 **7–307.1.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY MAY NOT TERMINATE ELECTRIC OR**
2 **GAS SERVICE TO A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER BECAUSE OF NONPAYMENT ON A**
3 **DAY FOR WHICH THE FORECASTED HIGH TEMPERATURE IS 32 DEGREES**
4 **FAHRENHEIT OR BELOW.**

5 **(B) A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY MAY NOT TERMINATE ELECTRIC**
6 **SERVICE TO A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER BECAUSE OF NONPAYMENT:**

7 **(1) ON A DAY FOR WHICH THE FORECASTED HEAT INDEX IS 95**
8 **DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR ABOVE; OR**

9 **(2) ON THE DAY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING A DAY FOR WHICH THE**
10 **FORECASTED HEAT INDEX IS 95 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR ABOVE.**

11 **(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**
12 **SECTION.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2009.