

HOUSE BILL 893

C5

5lr1616

By: **Delegate M. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2015

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Electric Companies – Customers – Security Deposits**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an electric company to notify customers regarding the reasons
4 for which a customer may be required to pay a security deposit by prominently
5 publishing notice in certain manners; requiring an electric company to give certain
6 written notice to a certain customer at least a certain period of time before imposing
7 a security deposit; requiring the notice to include certain information; requiring an
8 electric company to attempt to work with a customer to avoid imposing a security
9 deposit during a certain period; and generally relating to the imposition of security
10 deposits by electric companies.

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Public Utilities
13 Section 7–310
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Public Utilities**

19 **7–310.**

20 **(A) EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL NOTIFY CUSTOMERS REGARDING THE**
21 **REASONS FOR WHICH THE ELECTRIC COMPANY MAY REQUIRE A CUSTOMER TO PAY**
22 **A SECURITY DEPOSIT BY PROMINENTLY PUBLISHING NOTICE:**

23 **(1) ON THE ELECTRIC COMPANY’S WEB SITE;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) IN ALL LITERATURE PUBLISHED BY THE ELECTRIC COMPANY FOR**
2 **CUSTOMERS REGARDING BILL PAYMENT; AND**

3 **(3) IN EACH CUSTOMER'S BILL.**

4 **(B) (1) AN ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE TO AN**
5 **EXISTING CUSTOMER AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTRIC COMPANY MAY**
6 **REQUIRE THE CUSTOMER TO PAY A SECURITY DEPOSIT.**

7 **(2) THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
8 **SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW THE CUSTOMER MAY**
9 **AVOID THE IMPOSITION OF A REQUIRED SECURITY DEPOSIT.**

10 **(3) FOLLOWING THE 30-DAY NOTICE PERIOD, BUT BEFORE IMPOSING**
11 **A SECURITY DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT, THE ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL ATTEMPT TO**
12 **WORK WITH THE CUSTOMER TO AVOID THE IMPOSITION OF A REQUIRED SECURITY**
13 **DEPOSIT BY:**

14 **(I) ENTERING INTO PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS; OR**

15 **(II) IF THE CUSTOMER IS ELIGIBLE, PARTICIPATING IN AN**
16 **ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2015.