SB0517/657076/1

BY: Finance Committee

<u>AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 517</u>
(First Reading File Bill)

<u>AMENDMENT NO. 1</u>

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike "Senator Feldman" and substitute "<u>Senators Feldman and Hershey</u>".

<u>AMENDMENT NO. 2</u>

On page 1, strike line 2 in its entirety and substitute "<u>Public Utilities – Electricity and Natural Gas Suppliers – Information</u>"; in line 3, strike "a"; in line 4, strike the first "website" and substitute "<u>websites</u>"; in the same line, after "electric" insert "<u>and natural gas</u>"; in lines 4 and 6, in each instance, strike "the website" and substitute "<u>certain websites</u>"; in line 7, after "electricity" insert "<u>or natural gas</u>"; strike line 15 in its entirety and substitute "<u>electricity and natural gas supplier information.</u>"; and in line 28, after "7–510.2" insert "<u>and 7–604.1</u>".

<u>AMENDMENT NO. 3</u>

On page 3, in line 28, strike "**WEBSITE**" and substitute "**<u>WEBSITES</u>**"; and in line 29, after "**SUBTITLE**" insert "**<u>AND § 7–604.1 OF THIS TITLE</u>**".

On page 4, in line 14, before "**CUSTOMERS**" insert "**<u>RESIDENTIAL</u>**"; in line 15, after "**ELECTRICITY**" insert "**<u>TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS</u>**"; and in line 32, strike the colon.

On page 5, in line 1, strike "**(1)**"; strike beginning with "**; AND**" in line 2 down through "**SUPPLIER**" in line 4; in lines 2, 7, and 18, in each instance, after "**ELECTRICITY**" insert "**<u>TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS</u>**"; strike in their entirety lines 21 through 23, inclusive; in line 24, strike "**AN INFORMAL**" and substitute "**<u>A</u>**"; in lines 24 and 27, strike "**(6)**" and "**(7)**", respectively, and substitute "**<u>(5)</u>**" and "**<u>(6)</u>**", respectively; and in line 27, strike the colon.

(Over)

On page 6, in line 1, strike "**(I)**"; strike beginning with "**; AND**" in line 3 down through "**SUPPLIER**" in line 6; after line 11, insert:

"**7–604.1.**

(A)   THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A CUSTOMER CHOICE SHOPPING WEBSITE THAT ALLOWS A CUSTOMER TO SORT NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS THAT HAVE OPEN OFFERS TO SUPPLY NATURAL GAS TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS IN THE CUSTOMER'S SERVICE AREA.

(B)   THE WEBSITE SHALL INCLUDE:

(1)   A LIST OF ALL NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS THAT HAVE OPEN OFFERS TO SUPPLY NATURAL GAS TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS IN A CUSTOMER'S SERVICE AREA, SORTABLE BY:

(I)   COST OF SERVICE;

(II)   COST OF NATURAL GAS PER THERM;

(III)   RATE STRUCTURE;

(IV)   DURATION OF THE CONTRACT;

(V)   CANCELLATION FEE; AND

(VI)   ANY OTHER ASPECT OF SERVICE THAT THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS NECESSARY;

(2)   A WAY TO COMPARE NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS BASED ON THE SORTABLE ITEMS SPECIFIED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION;

(3)   A LINK TO THE WEBSITE OF EACH NATURAL GAS SUPPLIER WITH AN OPEN OFFER TO SUPPLY NATURAL GAS TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS;

(4)   A LINK TO A COMPLAINT PROCESS THAT PROVIDES ACCESS FOR THE CUSTOMER TO PROTECT THE CUSTOMER'S RIGHTS AND MAKE USE OF CONSUMER PROTECTIONS THROUGH THE COMMISSION; AND

(5)   FACT SHEETS ON THE PROCESS FOR COMPARING OFFERS FROM NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS ON THE WEBSITE, INCLUDING RELEVANT CONTRACT TERMS, REQUIREMENTS, LIMITATIONS, AND FEES.

(C)   (1)   TO ENSURE THE CURRENCY AND ACCURACY OF INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL MAINTAIN A SECURE PORTAL ON ITS WEBSITE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ABOUT OFFERS TO SUPPLY NATURAL GAS FROM NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS.

(2)   AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH, EACH NATURAL GAS SUPPLIER WITH AN OPEN OFFER TO SUPPLY NATURAL GAS SHALL SUBMIT DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFER TO THE COMMISSION THROUGH A SECURE PORTAL MAINTAINED BY THE COMMISSION ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

(D)   THE COMMISSION SHALL RECOVER THE COST OF COMPLYING WITH THIS SECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–110 OF THIS ARTICLE.";

in line 14, strike "Act and" and substitute "Act."; in the same line, strike "its" and substitute "the"; strike beginning with "and" in line 14 down through "Article" in line 15

(Over)

and substitute "section on its website, and establish the customer choice shopping websites required under §§ 7–510.2 and 7–604.1 of the Public Utilities Article"; in line 23, strike "a"; and in the same line, strike "website" and substitute "websites".