

No. 35

(House Joint Resolution 79)

A House Joint Resolution concerning

Public Service Commission - Energy Crisis

FOR the purpose of requesting the Public Service Commission to undertake an immediate study to determine the relationship between utility rate structures and demand, to [[investigate]] determine whether alternative rate structures [[which]] would encourage conservation of energy resources, and reporting its findings by a certain date.

WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that the State of Maryland and the nation are experiencing the effects of an energy shortage occasioned by unprecedented demand; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Maryland suffer economic dislocations and hardships because of the energy crisis; and

WHEREAS, There is general agreement that the cause and effects of the energy crisis cannot be alleviated for at least another 4-8 years; and

WHEREAS, The present rate structure for consumers of energy in the State of Maryland, the declining block rate method, devised during times of abundant supplies of energy, tends to promote demand by charging less per unit to the consumer for each additional level of consumption attained; and

WHEREAS, It would be in the best interests of the public to encourage conservation of energy resources during periods of short supply; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Public Service Commission is hereby requested to undertake an immediate study to determine the relationship between existing utility energy rate structures and demand and to [[investigate, either unilaterally or in conjunction with other regional and national regulatory agencies, alternative rate structures which would encourage conservation of energy resources in short supply]] also determine whether alternative rate structures, that may encourage conservation of energy resources in short supply, would be in the overall public interest; and be it further