

public convenience, necessity, and interest interest, convenience, and necessity; stating certain findings and declarations of the General Assembly; establishing an Office of Special Counsel; requiring the appointment of a special counsel for certain purposes relating to a certain proposed merger; authorizing the special counsel to employ certain staff and to retain certain consultants and experts; authorizing and requiring the special counsel to utilize the services of certain agencies to the extent practicable; requiring certain agencies to cooperate with the special counsel; providing that the special counsel is not subject to certain provisions of law concerning procurement; authorizing the Governor to transfer certain funds for certain purposes; establishing the duties, powers, and responsibilities of the special counsel; requiring the special counsel to investigate a certain proposed merger between certain companies; requiring the parties to the proposed merger to provide certain information to the special counsel; requiring the special counsel to examine and investigate certain information and undertake certain proceedings; requiring the special counsel to consider certain factors concerning the proposed merger; requiring the special counsel to make certain recommendations concerning approval or disapproval of the proposed merger to the General Assembly; making the special counsel and Office of Special Counsel subject to certain ethics restrictions relating to public service companies; reserving to the General Assembly the authority to approve or disapprove a certain proposed merger; prohibiting the Commission from approving a certain proposed merger before a certain date; authorizing the Commission to provide certain information and to conduct certain proceedings at the request of the special counsel; authorizing the special counsel to issue a subpoena enforceable in a certain manner; providing for certain reports by the special counsel to the presiding officers of the General Assembly, the Governor, and the Attorney General; requiring the inclusion of certain conditions in any approval of a merger between two certain companies; defining a term certain terms; making this Act an emergency measure; providing for the termination of a portion of this Act; and generally relating to public service companies, mergers, acquisitions, and financial structures.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Public Utility Companies

Section 2-113 and 5-104

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Public Utility Companies

Section ~~5-293~~ 2-303, 5-203, and 6-101 through 6-103

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Public Utility Companies

Section 6-105