

(II) THE COMMISSION MAY CONDITION AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION ON THE APPLICANT'S SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE OR ADHERENCE TO SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.

(4) IF THE COMMISSION DOES NOT FIND THAT THE ACQUISITION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PUBLIC ~~CONVENIENCE, NECESSITY, AND INTEREST~~ INTEREST, CONVENIENCE, AND NECESSITY, OR THAT THE ACQUISITION WOULD NOT PROVIDE A NET BENEFIT TO CONSUMERS, THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE AN ORDER DENYING THE APPLICATION.

(5) THE APPLICANT BEARS THE BURDEN OF SHOWING THAT GRANTING THE ACQUISITION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PUBLIC ~~CONVENIENCE, NECESSITY, AND INTEREST~~ INTEREST, CONVENIENCE, AND NECESSITY, AND PROVIDES A NET BENEFIT TO CONSUMERS.

(G) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PROHIBITS DISSEMINATION BY ANY PARTY OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ACQUISITION IF THE DISSEMINATION DOES NOT OTHERWISE CONFLICT WITH FEDERAL OR STATE LAW.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - State Government

SUBTITLE 27. SPECIAL COUNSEL.

9-2701.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, "AFFILIATE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-501 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES ARTICLE.

9-2702.

(A) THERE IS AN OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL.

(B) THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL IS AN INDEPENDENT UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

(C) THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL IS ESTABLISHED FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSES SET FORTH IN § 9-2705 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

9-2703.

(A) (1) THE SPECIAL COUNSEL SHALL BE APPOINTED ON OR BEFORE MAY 15, 2006, BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND SHALL ASSUME THE DUTIES OF OFFICE BY JUNE 1, 2006.

(2) THE SPECIAL COUNSEL MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR MISCONDUCT IN OFFICE, PERSISTENT FAILURE TO PERFORM THE DUTIES OF OFFICE, OR CONDUCT PREJUDICIAL TO THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

(B) A PERSON APPOINTED AS SPECIAL COUNSEL: