

to sue and be sued, and all other duties and responsibilities of the Public Service Commission and the Office of People’s Counsel, respectively, shall continue in effect under the Commission and the Office, respectively, or the appropriate unit within the Commission or the Office, until completed, withdrawn, canceled, modified, or otherwise changed pursuant to law.

SECTION 18. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) Pursuant to Article III, § 52(14) of the Maryland Constitution, in addition to the amounts provided under Chapter 216 of the Acts of 2006 (The Budget Bill), the following appropriations shall be made for fiscal year 2007 to implement the requirements of this Act:

- (1) Department of Assessments and Taxation
E50C00.01 Executive Direction..... \$250,000 General Funds
- (2) Public Service Commission
C90G00.01 General Administration and Hearings.. \$750,000 Special Funds
- (3) People’s Counsel
C91H00.01 General Administration..... \$500,000 Special Funds
- (4) Attorney General
C81C00.01 Legal Counsel and Advice..... \$500,000 Special Funds
- (5) Department of Human Resources
N00C01.12 Office of Home Energy Programs..... \$9,000,000 Special Funds

(b) Special funds appropriated in subsection (a)(2) through (4) of this section shall be recovered through the assessment on public utilities authorized under § 2-110 of the Public Utility Companies Article.

(c) Special funds appropriated in subsection (a)(5) of this section shall be credited from funds assessed under § 7-512.1 of the Public Utility Companies Article, as enacted by this Act, and the repeal of the ~~property~~ income tax credit and designation of special funding under Sections 2 and 10 of this Act.

SECTION 19. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, if any action is brought for declaratory, injunctive, or other relief to challenge the constitutionality or legality of any provision of this Act or any amendment made by this Act, the following rules shall apply:

- (1) The action shall be filed in the Circuit Court of Baltimore City.
- (2) The Attorney General, on behalf of the State, has an unconditional right to intervene and participate as a party in all aspects, including but not limited to the presentation of evidence and legal argument.