

(d) The Department may not change the current method of valuation before May 1, 2007.

SECTION 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2007 only:

(a) After making the distribution required under § 2-613 of the Tax – General Article, but before making the distributions required under §§ 2-614 and 2-615 of the Tax – General Article, from the remaining income tax revenue from corporations, the Comptroller shall distribute \$6,000,000 to the Electric Universal Service Fund established under § 7-512.1 of the Public Utility Companies Article.

(b) The funds distributed to the Electric Universal Service Fund under this section:

(1) shall be in addition to the funds collected for the electric universal service program under § 7-512.1(e) of the Public Utility Companies Article;

(2) may not be returned to customers under § 7-512.1(b)(3) of the Public Utility Companies Article; and

(3) shall be administered by the Department of Human Resources and disbursed as bill assistance and arrearage retirement funds without regard to the limitation on retirement of arrearages under § 7-512.1(a)(2)(iii) of the Public Utility Companies Article.

SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Public Service Commission shall study:

(1) the impact of the costs of rising fuel prices on residential consumers by obtaining on a monthly basis, for electric customers and gas customers, for each company and category of service:

(i) the number of residential utility turn-off notices issued in Maryland;

(ii) the number of residential customer turn-offs in Maryland;

(iii) the number of residential re-connections established in Maryland; and

(iv) the gross amount of residential customer arrearages for each class of customers in Maryland; and

(2) potential programs to mitigate the impact of these costs on low-income residential customers, including:

(i) percentage of income plans; and

(ii) tiered rate structure plans.

(b) On or before October 1 of 2006 through 2010, the Commission shall report the information obtained under subsection (a)(1) of this section to the Senate Finance