

Department of Housing and Community Development; renaming a certain program; requiring certain funds to be transferred by the Department of Human Resources to the Department of Housing and Community Development on a certain date; and generally relating to the electric universal service program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Public Utility Companies

Section 7-512.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Housing and Community Development

Section 2-102

Annotated Code of Maryland

(As enacted by Chapter ___ (H.B. 11) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2005)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Utility Companies

7-512.1.

(a) (1) The Commission shall establish [a] AN ELECTRIC universal service program to assist electric customers with annual incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.

(2) [The Department of Human Resources shall be responsible for administering the universal service program through the Office of Home Energy Programs.

(3) The Department of Human Resources may, with input from a panel or roundtable of interested parties, contract with a for-profit or a nonprofit Maryland corporation existing as of July 1, 1999 to assist in administering the universal service program.

(4) The Commission shall have oversight responsibility for the universal service program.

(5) The components of the ELECTRIC universal service program shall include:

(i) bill assistance, at a minimum of 50% of the determined need;

(ii) low-income weatherization; and

(iii) the retirement of arrearages for electric customers who have not previously received assistance in retiring arrearages under the universal service program, not to exceed a total of \$1.5 million in any given fiscal year.