

[(vii)](VI) the impact of using other federal poverty level benchmarks on costs and the effectiveness of the ELECTRIC universal service program.

(2) (i) To assist the Commission in preparing its recommendations under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Office of Home Energy Programs shall report to the Commission each year on:

1. the number of customers and the amount of distributions made to fuel customers under the Maryland Energy Assistance Program established under Article 41, § 6-406 of the Code, identified by funding source and fuel source; and

2. the cost of outreach and education materials provided by the Office of Home Energy Programs for the ELECTRIC universal service program.

(ii) The Office of Home Energy Programs may satisfy the reporting requirement of subparagraph (i)1 of this paragraph by providing the Commission with a copy of material that contains the required information and that the Office of Home Energy Programs submits to [a unit of] the federal government.

(iii) The Commission shall include the information provided by the Office of Home Energy Programs under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph in its report to the General Assembly under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(3) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(1) OF THIS SECTION IN ITS REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

[(3)](4) (i) The Office of Legislative Audits shall conduct a performance audit of the ELECTRIC universal service program once every 3 years or at another interval as directed by the Joint Audit Committee and shall report the results of the audit to the General Assembly.

(ii) The cost of the performance audit under this paragraph shall be included in the costs of administering the ELECTRIC universal service program, and funded through the ELECTRIC universal service program fund under subsection (f) of this section.

(D) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SHALL REPORT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE LOW-INCOME WEATHERIZATION COMPONENT OF THE ELECTRIC UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM, INCLUDING:

(I) THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS EXPENDED DURING THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR;

(II) THE LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION DURING THE PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR, INCLUDING THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SERVED IN EACH AREA OF THE STATE; AND