

CHAPTER 87

(House Bill 1222)

AN ACT concerning

State Standby Petroleum Fuel Set-Aside Program - Extension

FOR the purpose of extending the sunset provision of the State Standby Petroleum Fuel Set-Aside Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Chapter 5 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2003

Section 8

Preamble

WHEREAS, Adequate supplies of fuel are essential to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Any severe disruption in fuel supplied for use within the State would cause grave hardship and pose a threat to the health and economic well-being of the people of the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The existing petroleum distribution system serves the needs of fuel users in the State and can be expected to do so until an acute shortage in petroleum supplies occurs; and

WHEREAS, According to federal law, including the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-159), as amended by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (P.L. 94-163), the Maryland Energy Administration has extensive experience administering the State Standby Petroleum Fuel Set-Aside Program; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 12287 ended the federal petroleum pricing and allocation controls, including the State Standby Petroleum Fuel Set-Aside Program on January 28, 1981; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973, as amended by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, authorizing the implementation of a State set-aside program, terminated on September 30, 1981; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly responded to the termination of that Act by enacting Chapter 364 of the Acts of 1982, that created the State Standby Petroleum Fuel Set-Aside Program, that can be activated upon declaration by the Governor of an energy emergency to mitigate hardships and emergency conditions caused by a fuel shortage; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of the State Standby Petroleum Fuel Set-Aside Program were last extended by the General Assembly in 2000 and the Program will now terminate on July 1, 2005; and