

CHAPTER 667

(House Bill 1080)

AN ACT concerning

Gas and Electric Companies - Service Terminations

FOR--the--purpose--of--prohibiting--certain--public--service--companies from--terminating--certain--services--to--certain--customers during--certain--periods;--requiring--that--the--Public--Service Commission--consult--with--the--Maryland--Department--of--Human Resources---and---adopt;---by---a---certain--date;--rules--and regulations--to--identify--customers--to--whom--this--Act--applies; requiring--that--the--Public--Service--Commission--make--certain reports--to--the--General--Assembly--at--certain--times;--and generally--relating--to--the--termination--of--certain--services--by certain--public--service--companies-

FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to adopt, by a certain date, regulations relating to the termination of utility service to certain persons during a certain period; requiring the Commission to consider certain factors in adopting the regulations; and requiring the Commission to submit an annual report to the General Assembly regarding utility service terminations.

BY adding to

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law
Section 54J
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1980 Replacement Volume and 1983 Supplement)

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

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law

54J.

(A)--THE--GENERAL--ASSEMBLY--RECOGNIZES--THAT--A--CONTINUOUS SOURCE--OF--GAS--AND--ELECTRICITY--IS--INDISPENSABLE--TO--PROTECT--LIFE AND--PROPERTY;---THE--DENIAL--OF--WHICH--CONSTITUTES--A--SERIOUS DISRUPTION--IN--THE--NORMAL--PATTERNS--OF--DAILY--LIFE--OF--MARYLAND CITIZENS.---THE--DRAMATIC--INCREASE--IN--ENERGY--COSTS--FOR--HOUSEHOLD PURPOSES--HAS--MADE--MANY--LOW--INCOME--PERSONS--UNABLE--TO--AFFORD--THESE NECESSITIES--OF--LIFE.---THE--GENERAL--ASSEMBLY--FURTHER--RECOGNIZES THAT--TERMINATION--OF--UTILITY--SERVICE--DURING--THE--HEATING--SEASON POSES--AN--ESPECIALLY--SERIOUS--RISK--TO--LIFE--AND--PROPERTY.

(B)--DURING--THE--PERIOD--FROM--NOVEMBER--1--THROUGH--MARCH--31--OF EACH--YEAR;--A--GAS--COMPANY;--AN--ELECTRIC--COMPANY;--OR--A--GAS--AND