

WHEREAS,--The--Department--of--Energy--has--collected--over  
 \$200,000,000--as--restitution--payments--as--restitution--for  
 unidentifiable-consumers-injured-by-oil-price-overcharging;

WHEREAS,--Congress-has-enacted-legislation--authorizing--that  
 oil--overcharge funds--be--distributed--to--the--states--for  
 supplemental-energy-assistance-purposes-as-the--most--appropriate  
 means--of--providing--restitution--to--consumers--since--it--is  
 impossible-to-individually-identify-injured-consumers;

WHEREAS,--The-General-Assembly,--foreseeing-imminent--cutbacks  
 in--federal--assistance--for-energy-assistance-and-weatherization  
 programs--for-the-needy,--is-seeking-to-create-a--long-term--source  
 of-funds--for-these-purposes-which-will-not-require-any-additional  
 tax--on--other--Marylanders,--many--of-whom-are-facing-difficult  
 financial-situations-themselves;

WHEREAS,--Private-benefactors-should-have-a-simple-means--for  
 channelling-donations-and-bequests-to-the-needy;

WHEREAS,--Rising--energy-prices-have-placed-the-most-serious  
 burden--on--the--elderly--and--other--low-income--people,--now,  
 therefore;

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

Article--Natural-Resources

TITLE-13,--ENERGY-ASSISTANCE-AND-WEATHERIZATION-TRUST-FUND

13-101-

THERE-IS-AN-ENERGY-ASSISTANCE-AND-WEATHERIZATION-TRUST-FUND-

13-102-

EXCEPT--AS--OTHERWISE--EXPRESSLY--PROVIDED--BY--STATUTE--OR  
 REQUIRED--AS--A--CONDITION--OF--ACCEPTANCE,--THERE--SHALL--BE--CREDITED--TO  
 THE--ENERGY--ASSISTANCE--AND--WEATHERIZATION--TRUST--FUND--

{1}--ALL--REVENUES--RECEIVED--BY--THE--STATE--FROM--ANY  
 SOURCE--AS--A--DIRECT--OR--INDIRECT--RESULT--OF--ALLEGED--PETROLEUM  
 PRICING--AND--ALLOCATION--VIOLATION--LITIGATION,--COMMONLY--REFERRED--TO  
 AS--OIL--OVERCHARGE--REVENUES,--AND

{2}--ALL--REVENUES--RECEIVED--BY--THE--STATE--FROM--ANY  
 SOURCE--AS--A--GIFT--TO--THE--STATE,--AS--DEFINED--IN--ARTICLE-1,--§--22--OF  
 THE--CODE,--FOR--THE--PURPOSE--OF--PROVIDING--ENERGY--ASSISTANCE--OR  
 WEATHERIZATION--TO--INDIVIDUALS--IN--THIS--STATE--

13-103-