

(7) EVALUATE ANY TAXATION AND REGULATORY ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH RETAIL ELECTRIC COMPETITION WITH SPECIFIC FOCUS ON LOCAL PROPERTY AND USE TAXES;

(8) EVALUATE THE SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE FUNCTIONS PROVIDED BY THE REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY TO DETERMINE THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF RETAIL ELECTRIC COMPETITION ON THESE FUNCTIONS;

~~(8)~~ (9) EVALUATE AND RECOMMEND THE WHETHER AND UNDER WHAT TERMS UNDER WHICH RETAIL ELECTRIC COMPETITION SHOULD BE OFFERED IN MARYLAND, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE WHICH RESTRUCTURING OF THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY IN MARYLAND SHOULD PROCEED AND IN WHAT TIME FRAME;

~~(9)~~ (10) DETERMINE IF LEGISLATION SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE 1998 SESSION OF THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE AND, IF SO, DRAFT A MODEL FOR THE LEGISLATION; AND

(10) EVALUATE THE IMPACT OF RETAIL ELECTRIC COMPETITION ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES; AND

~~(10)~~ (11) CONSIDER ANY OTHER PERTINENT ISSUES.

~~(11)~~ (F) THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION BUT ARE ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

~~(12)~~ (G) THE DEPARTMENTS OF LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE AND FISCAL SERVICES SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE TASK FORCE.

~~(13)~~ (H) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE A FINAL REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, SUBJECT TO § 2-1312 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 1997.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act ~~shall take effect June 1, 1997~~ is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all of the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at At the end of June 30, 1998, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved April 8, 1997.