

(5) THE COMPONENTS OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) BILL ASSISTANCE, AT A MINIMUM OF 50% OF THE DETERMINED NEED;

(II) LOW-INCOME WEATHERIZATION; AND

(III) THE RETIREMENT OF ARREARAGES THAT WERE INCURRED PRIOR TO THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE.

(B) (1) (I) ALL CUSTOMERS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUNDING OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM THROUGH A CHARGE COLLECTED BY EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY.

(II) IN THE FIRST 6 MONTHS AFTER THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE, THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CHARGES COLLECTED FOR THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM FOR PERSONS THAT ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CUSTOMER CHOICE.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE A FAIR AND EQUITABLE ALLOCATION FOR COLLECTING THE CHARGES AMONG ALL CUSTOMER CLASSES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

(3) ANY UNEXPENDED UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM FUNDS RETURNED TO CUSTOMERS UNDER SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE RETURNED TO CUSTOMER CLASSES IN THE SAME PROPORTIONS AS THEY WERE COLLECTED.

(4) AN ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL RECOVER UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM COSTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-512 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(5) THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE ALLOCATION OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE CHARGE AMONG THE GENERATION, TRANSMISSION, AND DISTRIBUTION RATE COMPONENTS OF ALL CLASSES.

(6) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ASSESS THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE SURCHARGE ON A PER KILOWATT-HOUR BASIS.

(C) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 1999, AND ON AN ANNUAL BASIS THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM, INCLUDING:

(1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (D) AND (E) OF THIS SECTION, A RECOMMENDATION ON THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM FOR THE FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR;

(2) FOR BILL ASSISTANCE;