

(III) THE AMOUNT OF LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE INCLUDED IN RATES PRIOR TO THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE.

(F) FOR THE FOURTH YEAR AFTER THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE, AND FOR EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE AMOUNT TO BE USED FOR THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM, DETERMINED AFTER CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMISSION REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION, IS SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH THE ENACTMENT OF LEGISLATION.

(G) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE, FOR THE 3 YEARS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE, ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS AND ELECTRIC COMPANIES MAY NOT TERMINATE, FOR AN ARREARAGE BALANCE DUE ON THE INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION DATE, THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO A CUSTOMER WHO RECEIVES ASSISTANCE UNDER THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM UNDER THIS SECTION.

(H) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "FUND" MEANS THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM FUND.

(2) THERE IS A UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM FUND.

(3) (1) 1. THE COMPTROLLER SHALL COLLECT THE REVENUE COLLECTED BY ELECTRIC COMPANIES UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION AND PLACE THE REVENUE INTO THE FUND.

2. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY APPROPRIATE FUNDS SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE FUNDS COLLECTED UNDER SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

(II) THE FUND IS A CONTINUING, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(III) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO ASSIST ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION.

(4) THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, WITH OVERSIGHT BY THE COMMISSION, SHALL DISBURSE THE FUNDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

(5) IN ANY YEAR WHEN THERE ARE UNEXPENDED FUNDS, THOSE FUNDS SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE CUSTOMER CLASSES PROPORTIONATE TO HOW THE CUSTOMER CLASSES PAID INTO THE FUND.

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(A) (1) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION, AN ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL BE PROVIDED A FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO RECOVER ALL OF ITS PRUDENTLY INCURRED AND VERIFIABLE NET TRANSITION COSTS, SUBJECT TO FULL MITIGATION, FOLLOWING THE COMMISSION'S DETERMINATION UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.