

CHAPTER 3

(Senate Bill 300)

AN ACT concerning

Electric Utility Industry Restructuring

FOR the purpose of enabling the restructuring of the electric utility industry of the State in a certain manner, subject to oversight of the Public Service Commission; stating the findings and declaration of intent of the General Assembly; requiring the Commission to require certain consumer education programs, customer information, nondiscrimination policies, and operational requirements; requiring the Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Energy Administration to report by a certain date on certain programs; requiring the Commission to issue certain orders or adopt certain regulations before the implementation of customer choice; prohibiting the disclosure of certain information; prohibiting certain actions by electricity suppliers; providing that this Act may not be construed as preventing the application of certain protections and laws; requiring certain electric companies to provide certain information to the Department of the Environment and the Commission by a certain date; requiring the Department of the Environment, in consultation with the Commission, to study a certain environmental surcharge under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission, in consultation with the Department of the Environment, to adopt certain measures regarding certain environmental programs; requiring the Commission to reduce certain rates for a certain time under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission to consult with the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General before issuing certain regulations; allowing municipal electric utilities to elect to make their service territory available for customer choice; requiring municipal electric utilities to file a certain plan and report by a certain date on a certain status; providing that certain persons may not engage in the business of competitive billing services in certain local jurisdictions unless the person holds a certain license; providing for certain licensure requirements; prohibiting the recovery of consumer education costs under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission to establish a certain universal service program; requiring all customers of electric companies in the State to contribute to the funding of a universal service program; requiring the Commission to report on a universal service program and make a certain recommendation; providing for certain funding of a universal service program; requiring certain actions by the General Assembly regarding certain funding of the universal service program; requiring the Commission to consider certain evidence in determining certain costs or benefits; requiring the Commission to cooperate with and share information with the Antitrust Division of the Office of the Attorney General; requiring certain electric companies to continue purchasing electricity under certain contracts under certain circumstances; prohibiting electricity suppliers and electric companies from terminating certain customers under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Energy Administration, to report by a certain date on the feasibility of requiring a