

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 3 of this Act shall take effect July 1, 2000, provided that, if the Public Service Commission delays implementation of customer choice in accordance with the provisions of § 7-510(b) of the Public Utility Companies Article, the surcharge funding the Environmental Trust Fund pursuant to § 7-203 of the Public Utility Companies Article shall continue to be collected as a per kilowatt hour surcharge on electricity generated within the State until customer choice is implemented.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor is authorized to submit a budget amendment for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, transferring \$6,000,000 from the Revenue Stabilization Fund to be used for the purpose of educating consumers on electric utility industry restructuring. In accordance with § 7-505(f) of the Public Utility Companies Article, the Public Service Commission shall use the allocated funds during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000, to implement a consumer education program informing customers of changes in the electric industry. On or before September 1, 1999, the Public Service Commission shall report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on: (1) the recommended funding level, between \$3,000,000 and \$6,000,000, for the consumer education program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001; (2) the recommended method of funding for the program; (3) if applicable, the impact that the funding method will have on customers' costs for electricity; and (4) the content of the media used in the program. On or before September 1, 2000, the Public Service Commission shall report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on: (1) the recommended funding level, between \$3,000,000 and \$6,000,000, for the consumer education program for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002; (2) the recommended method of funding for the program; (3) if applicable, the impact that the funding method will have on customers' costs for electricity; and (4) the content of the media used in the program.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1, 1999, the Public Service Commission shall report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on: (1) the determinations of any transition costs or any transition benefits for the various electric companies; and (2) the status of the Public Service Commission's considerations regarding the functional, operational, structural, or legal separation between electric companies' regulated businesses and their nonregulated businesses or nonregulated affiliates.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other application of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect on the later of July 1, 2000, and the initial implementation date that the Public Service Commission determines for investor-owned utilities under § 7-510(b)(1) of the Public Utility Companies Article, as enacted by this Act.