

Set-Aside Program by extending to a certain date the termination provisions for the Program.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 41 – Governor – Executive and Administrative Departments

Section 10-811

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

#### Preamble

WHEREAS, Adequate supplies of fuel are essential to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Any severe disruption in fuel supplied for use within the State would cause grave hardship and pose a threat to the health and economic well-being of the people of State; and

WHEREAS, The existing petroleum distribution system serves the needs of Maryland fuel users and can be expected to do so until an acute shortage in petroleum supplies occurs; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to federal law, including the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-159), as amended by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (P.L. 94-163), the Maryland Energy Administration has extensive experience administering the State set-aside program; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 12287 ended the federal petroleum pricing and allocation controls, including the State set-aside program on January 28, 1981; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of the Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973, as amended by the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, authorizing the implementation of a State set-aside program, terminated on September 30, 1981; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly responded to the termination of that Act by enacting Chapter 364 of the Acts of 1982, which created the State Standby Petroleum Fuel Set-Aside Program, which can be activated upon declaration by the Governor of an energy emergency to mitigate hardships and emergency conditions caused by a fuel shortage; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of the State Standby Petroleum Fuel Set-Aside Program were last extended by the General Assembly in 1995 and the Program will now terminate on July 1, 2000; and

WHEREAS, It is in the public interest for the State of Maryland to establish and maintain in a state of readiness the State Standby Petroleum Set-Aside Program, which can be activated upon declaration of the Governor of an energy emergency to mitigate hardships and emergency conditions caused by a fuel shortage; now, therefore,