

Article - Public Utility Companies

7-512.1.

(h) (1) In this subsection, "fund" means the universal service program fund.

(2) There is a universal service program fund.

(3) (i) 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.

(6) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION MAY RETAIN ANY UNEXPENDED FUNDS IN THE FUND AT THE END OF JUNE 30, 2001 AND MAKE THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT ~~UNDER THIS SECTION~~ THROUGH JUNE 30, 2002 TO ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS WHO:

(I) QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND DURING FISCAL YEAR 2001; AND

(II) APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND BEFORE JULY 1, 2001.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before October 1, 2001, the Public Service Commission and the Department of Human Resources shall study and report to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, the Senate Finance Committee, and the House Environmental Matters Committee on:

(1) the level of participation in the universal service program during fiscal year 2001;

(2) the projected needs of the program for fiscal years 2002 and 2003;

(3) the amounts expended from the universal service program fund during fiscal year 2001;