

~~(3)~~ (III) for low-income weatherization, the amount of funds needed, as determined by the Commission, for measures that reduce consumption of energy by electric customers with annual incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level and the basis for this determination;

(4) (IV) the amount of funds needed, as determined by the Commission, to retire arrearages ~~that were incurred prior to the initial implementation date by~~ FOR electric customers ~~with annual incomes at or below 150% of the federal poverty level~~ WHO HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED ASSISTANCE IN RETIRING ARREARAGES UNDER THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM and the basis for this determination;

(V) THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS NEEDED, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, FOR BILL ASSISTANCE, LOW-INCOME WEATHERIZATION, AND ARREARAGE RETIREMENT, RESPECTIVELY, FOR CUSTOMERS FOR WHOM INCOME LIMITATIONS MAY BE WAIVED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(6) OF THIS SECTION, AND THE BASIS FOR EACH DETERMINATION;

~~(5)~~ (VI) the impact on customers' rates, including the allocation among customer classes, from collecting the total amount recommended by the Commission under item ~~(4)~~ (I) of this ~~subsection~~ PARAGRAPH; and

~~(6)~~ (VII) the impact of using other federal poverty level benchmarks on costs and the effectiveness of the universal service program.

(2) (I) TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION IN PREPARING ITS RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE OFFICE OF HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS SHALL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION EACH YEAR ON:

1. THE NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS AND THE AMOUNT OF DISTRIBUTIONS MADE TO FUEL CUSTOMERS UNDER THE MARYLAND ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE 41, § 6-406 OF THE CODE, IDENTIFIED BY FUNDING SOURCE AND FUEL SOURCE; AND

2. THE COST OF OUTREACH AND EDUCATION MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS FOR THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM.

(II) THE OFFICE OF HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS MAY SATISFY THE REPORTING REQUIREMENT OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I)1 OF THIS PARAGRAPH BY PROVIDING THE COMMISSION WITH A COPY OF MATERIAL THAT CONTAINS THE REQUIRED INFORMATION AND THAT THE OFFICE OF HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS SUBMITS TO A UNIT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(III) THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IN ITS REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(3) (I) THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AUDITS SHALL CONDUCT A PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM AT LEAST ONCE