

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) (I) AT THE END OF A GIVEN FISCAL YEAR, ANY UNEXPENDED FUNDS THAT WERE COLLECTED FOR THAT FISCAL YEAR SHALL BE RETAINED IN THE FUND AND SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT THROUGH THE ~~END~~ FIRST 3 MONTHS OF THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR TO CUSTOMERS WHO:

1. QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND DURING THE GIVEN FISCAL YEAR; AND

2. APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND BEFORE THE END OF THE GIVEN FISCAL YEAR; AND

3. REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE AT THE TIME SERVICES ARE PROVIDED.

(II) IF THE COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT AN EXTENSION IS NEEDED, THE COMMISSION MAY EXTEND UP TO AN ADDITIONAL 3 MONTHS THE PERIOD IN WHICH UNEXPENDED FUNDS MAY BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR DISBURSEMENT UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

~~(H)~~ (III) [In any year when there are unexpended funds, those funds] ANY FUNDS COLLECTED FOR A GIVEN FISCAL YEAR THAT ARE RETAINED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH AND THAT REMAIN UNEXPENDED AT THE END OF THE ~~NEXT FISCAL YEAR~~ PERIOD ALLOWED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPHS (I) AND (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH shall be returned to [the customer classes proportionate to how the customer classes paid into] EACH CUSTOMER CLASS IN THE PROPORTION THAT THE CUSTOMER CLASS CONTRIBUTED CHARGES TO the fund FOR THE GIVEN FISCAL YEAR IN THE FORM OF A CREDIT TOWARD THE CHARGE ASSESSED IN THE FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 7-512.1(g) and (h), respectively, of Article – Public Utility Companies of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-512.1(e) and (f), respectively.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding the requirements of § 7-512.1(b)(3) and (h)(5) of the Public Utility Companies Article and § 7-512.1(f)(5) of the Public Utility Companies Article, as enacted by this Act, the Public Service Commission may retain any unexpended funds in the electric universal service program fund at the end of June 30, 2003 and make the funds available for disbursement through June 30, 2004 to electric customers who: