

(iii) “Digital television converter box” means a device that:

1. receives and decodes digital broadcast signals for display by an analog television set; and

2. is not a digital cable television box.

(iv) “Set-top box” means a digital cable television box, wireless television receiver, or digital television converter box.

(v) “Wireless television receiver” means a device that:

1. is used in conjunction with a dish antenna to receive satellite or other wireless television programming; and

2. converts signals from a dish antenna for use by a television set.

(2) The Director of the Maryland Energy Administration shall:

(i) Monitor the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) study of standby energy consumption in set-top boxes and options for reduction of this energy consumption;

(ii) Within available funds, after any further appropriate consultation with the EPA so as not to duplicate effort, and after consultation with representatives of the State cable telecommunications industry, the State satellite broadcast industry, the State television broadcast industry, the State retail merchants, the set-top box manufacturing industry, and State nonprofit advocates of energy conservation and efficiency, assess the technological and policy options for the reduction of standby energy consumption in set-top boxes sold and installed in Maryland; and

(iii) In accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, report to the General Assembly and the Governor by December 1, 2003, including all available information from the EPA study of this issue.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That if, by action of the General Assembly, the Maryland Energy Administration is unable to carry out its responsibilities under this Act, the Governor shall reassign the obligation to carry out these responsibilities to the Department of the Environment or any other appropriate State agency.

SECTION 2. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2003. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of December 31, 2003, with no further action required by the General Assembly, Section 2 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

May 22, 2003

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.  
President of the Senate