

a certain date; providing for the effective date and termination of this Act; and generally relating to the universal service program fund.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Public Utility Companies

Section 7-512.1(h)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Volume and 2001 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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] 2002 and make the funds available for disbursement through June 30, [2002] 2003 to electric customers who:

(i) qualify for assistance from the fund during fiscal year [2001] 2002; and

(ii) apply for assistance from the fund before July 1, [2001] ~~2002~~ 2002.