

(1998 Volume and 2001 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Chapter 433 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2001~~

~~Section 3~~

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]~~ ANY GIVEN FISCAL YEAR 2002 and make the funds available for disbursement through ~~[June 30, 2002]~~ THE END OF THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR 2003 to electric customers who:

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

(ii) ~~[apply]~~ APPLIED for assistance from the fund ~~[before July 1, 2001]~~ DURING THE GIVEN FISCAL YEAR 2002.

~~Chapter 433 of the Acts of 2001~~

~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2001. It shall remain effective for a period of [1 year] 2 YEARS and 1 month~~