

(c) The cost of the performance audit shall be included in the administrative expenses under § 7-707(f)(4) of the Public Utility Companies Article, as enacted by this Act.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The General Assembly acknowledges that significant investments have been made in the utilization of poultry litter in alternative and beneficial ways, such as poultry litter pelletizing ~~plans~~ plants, before enactment of this Act, and it is the intent of the General Assembly that the private sector continue to find creative and innovative ways in which to utilize poultry litter that are consistent with and responsive to the purposes of this Act.

(b) To the extent that existing and future State financial assistance programs can help facilitate ~~this undertaking~~ the goals specified in subsection (a) of this section, the General Assembly encourages partnerships that lead to environmentally friendly and economically advantageous initiatives.

(c) To help safeguard previous private sector investment efforts and yet facilitate future private sector investment efforts consistent with the purposes of this Act, the General Assembly encourages the Maryland Energy Administration, in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, to enhance the State's system of monitoring the production and volume of poultry litter in order to realize, to the extent possible, a balance between existing demands and anticipated demands for poultry litter to help ensure:

(1) that existing projects have sufficient quantities of poultry litter to meet reasonably projected demands and to be economically viable; and

(2) that future projects, such as power generation, have sufficient quantities of poultry litter in order to become economically viable.

SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1, 2009, the Public Service Commission shall provide a status report to the Governor and the General Assembly, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, which includes a review of the implementation of this Act, the availability and development of each type of Tier 1 renewable energy source, the impact on the price of Tier 1 renewable energy sources, the amount of compliance fees paid by electricity suppliers each year for noncompliance with Tier 1 and Tier 2 renewable energy sources, and the use of these compliance fees to support the creation of new Tier 1 renewable energy sources.

SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Public Service Commission shall:

(1) on or before January 1, 2016, commence a review of the implementation and the environmental and economic impacts of the renewable portfolio standard enacted by this Act, including the impacts of Tier 2 renewable sources;

(2) in the course of its review, consult with appropriate scientific, economic, and environmental resources, and with affected communities of interest;