

(1) the amount authorized to be collected under this section; multiplied by and

(2) the ratio of the gross operating revenues of the entity subject to the special assessment to the total gross operating revenues for all entities subject to the assessment.

(d) (1) Of the \$3,000,000 assessment authorized under subsection (a) of this section, the Public Service Commission may not expend more than \$1,500,000 on consultants and experts related to the issues identified in Section 2(b)(1) of this Act, either in connection with the interim report or the final report of the Commission.

(2) The portion of the assessment that is allocated to the studies of issues identified in Section 2(b)(1) of this Act:

(i) shall be paid only by each electric company; and

(ii) shall equal the product of multiplying:

1. the amount to be collected under this section; and

2. the ratio of the gross operating revenues of each electric company to the total gross operating revenue for all electric companies in the State.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, that the Public Service Commission may use an emergency procurement under § 13-108 of the State Finance and Procurement Article to obtain any outside experts or consultants necessary to conduct the studies required under this Act.

SECTION ~~3~~ 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved by the Governor, May 17, 2007.

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## CHAPTER 550

(Senate Bill 408)

AN ACT concerning