

~~[(p)](Q)~~ "Transition cost" means a cost, liability, or investment that

~~(1) traditionally would have been or would be recoverable under rate of return regulation, but which may not be recoverable in a restructured electricity supply market; or~~

~~(2) arises as a result of electric industry restructuring and is related to the creation of customer choice.~~

~~[(q)](R)~~ (1) "Universal service program" means a program that helps low income customers maintain electric service.

~~(2) "Universal service program" includes customer bill assistance and payment programs, termination of service protection, and policies and services that help low income customers to reduce or manage energy consumption in a cost effective manner.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:~~

~~(a) This section applies only to a service territory in which a rate cap or freeze was not in effect for residential customers as of July 1, 2004, and which had a rate mitigation plan in effect on July 1, 2006, for residential customers in accordance with Order No. 80747 of the Public Service Commission.~~

~~(b) On or before July 1, 2007, the Public Service Commission shall initiate a proceeding to investigate options available to implement a rate mitigation plan or rate stabilization plan, including renegotiation of a settlement agreement, to phase in the costs of electricity rate increases for residential tenants of a nonresidential customer of an electric company, where 90% of the residential tenants of the nonresidential customer are low and moderate income individuals.~~

~~(c) The rate mitigation plan or rate stabilization plan implemented under subsection (b) of this section shall apply to increases in electricity rates as a result of increases in the cost of electricity that will take effect on or after June 1, 2007, for which the electric company has contracted.~~

~~SECTION 3. 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.~~

(a) The Public Service Commission, the Office of Home Energy Programs in the Department of Human Resources, and the Office of People's Counsel shall meet to discuss options for expanding the electric universal service program to include