

HOUSE BILL 928

C5

4lr1388

By: **Delegates Rudolph and James**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2014

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission – Competitive Retail Electricity and Gas Supply –**
3 **Consumer Protection – Report**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to submit a certain
5 report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date on the status of the
6 Commission's efforts to provide appropriate protections for consumers in
7 connection with competitive retail electricity supply and retail gas supply and
8 recommendations regarding ratepayer protections; specifying the contents of
9 the report; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
10 consumer protection in connection with competitive retail electricity and gas
11 supply.

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That:

14 (a) On or before January 1, 2015, the Public Service Commission shall
15 submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State
16 Government Article, on the status of the Commission's efforts to provide appropriate
17 protections for consumers in connection with competitive retail gas supply and
18 competitive retail electricity supply, and recommendations as to how to better protect
19 ratepayers.

20 (b) The report shall include information and recommendations concerning:

21 (1) the adequacy of the Commission's current retail electricity and gas
22 customer choice consumer protection regulations;

23 (2) the adequacy of the Commission's enforcement of current
24 electricity and gas customer choice consumer protection laws and regulations;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) whether to require further safeguards in connection with the
2 verification of retail electricity or gas contracts;

3 (4) whether to require further safeguards in connection with consumer
4 comprehension of retail electricity or gas contracts;

5 (5) whether to require licensing of individuals who sell or facilitate the
6 sale of retail electricity or gas contracts;

7 (6) any other issues the Commission considers relevant to these
8 issues; and

9 (7) whether legislation is necessary to further any recommendations
10 in the report, and if so, shall include draft legislation of any necessary statutory
11 changes.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 June 1, 2014. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 2 months and, at the
14 end of July 31, 2015, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this
15 Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.