

# SENATE BILL 1044

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CF HB 928

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By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2014

Assigned to: Rules

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## 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;

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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.