

## Chapter 78

(House Bill 928)

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) The Commission shall convene a workgroup of interested persons, including retail electricity suppliers, to advise the Commission on the information and recommendations that should be included in the report.

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

**Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2014.**