

SENATE BILL 382

C5

5lr2402

By: **Senator Hershey**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Electric Companies – Customer Choice of Electricity Supplier – Smart Meters**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain regulations adopted by or orders issued by the Public
4 Service Commission to specify a certain timing for an electric company to process a
5 certain transaction for enrollment from an electricity supplier; requiring an electric
6 company to process a certain transaction to be effective within a certain period of
7 time if a customer has a certain smart meter; defining a certain term; and generally
8 relating to customer choice of electricity supplier and smart meters.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Public Utilities
11 Section 7–507(e)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Public Utilities
16 Section 7–507(e–1)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Public Utilities**

22 7–507.

23 (e) The Commission shall adopt regulations or issue orders to:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) protect consumers, electric companies, and electricity suppliers from
2 anticompetitive and abusive practices;

3 (2) require each electricity supplier to provide, in addition to the
4 requirements under § 7-505(b)(5) of this subtitle, adequate and accurate customer
5 information to enable customers to make informed choices regarding the purchase of any
6 electricity services offered by the electricity supplier;

7 (3) establish reasonable restrictions on telemarketing;

8 (4) establish procedures for contracting with customers;

9 (5) establish requirements and limitations relating to deposits, billing,
10 collections, and contract cancellations;

11 (6) establish provisions providing for the referral of a delinquent account
12 by an electricity supplier to the standard offer service under § 7-510(c) of this subtitle; and

13 (7) establish procedures for dispute resolution.

14 **(E-1) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "SMART METER" MEANS A DIGITAL METER**
15 **THAT ALLOWS TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AN ELECTRIC CUSTOMER'S**
16 **PREMISES AND AN ELECTRIC COMPANY THROUGH A WIRELESS NETWORK AS A**
17 **COMPONENT OF ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE.**

18 **(2) (I) IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS**
19 **PARAGRAPH, THE REGULATIONS OR ORDERS UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS**
20 **SECTION SHALL ESTABLISH THE TIMING FOR AN ELECTRIC COMPANY TO PROCESS A**
21 **TRANSACTION FOR ENROLLMENT FROM AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER.**

22 **(II) IF A CUSTOMER HAS A SMART METER, AN ELECTRIC**
23 **COMPANY IS REQUIRED TO PROCESS A TRANSACTION FOR ENROLLMENT FROM AN**
24 **ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER TO BE EFFECTIVE WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER**
25 **RECEIVING THE TRANSACTION FROM THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER.**

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2015.