

SENATE BILL 716

C5

9lr2678

By: **Senator Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2019

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Residential Electricity and Gas Supply Billing Information – Reports**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain persons to submit to the Public Service Commission
4 on and after a certain date monthly reports containing detailed billing information
5 on the supply of electricity and gas to residential customers; requiring certain initial
6 reports to include certain historic information; providing for the required contents of
7 certain reports; requiring certain information to be organized by certain categories;
8 requiring the Commission to make certain reports available to certain persons;
9 requiring the Office of Home Energy Programs to use certain reports to make certain
10 analyses; requiring the Commission, in consultation with the Office, to provide a
11 certain overview report each year to the General Assembly containing certain
12 information; requiring the Commission to publish a certain overview report on its
13 website; defining certain terms; and generally relating to reports on the electric and
14 gas supply to residential customers.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Public Utilities

17 Section 7–311

18 Annotated Code of Maryland

19 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Public Utilities**

23 **7–311.**

24 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
25 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) “LOW-INCOME CUSTOMER” MEANS AN ELECTRIC OR GAS**
2 **CUSTOMER WITH AN ANNUAL INCOME AT OR BELOW 200% OF THE FEDERAL**
3 **POVERTY LEVEL.**

4 **(3) “UTILITY-PROCURED GAS” MEANS GAS PROCURED BY A GAS**
5 **COMPANY FOR RETAIL SALE TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS WITHIN THE GAS**
6 **COMPANY’S SERVICE TERRITORY.**

7 **(B) (1) BEGINNING ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2020, THE FOLLOWING**
8 **PERSONS SHALL SUBMIT A MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COMMISSION CONTAINING**
9 **DETAILED BILLING INFORMATION ON THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY AND GAS TO**
10 **RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS IN ITS SERVICE TERRITORY:**

11 **(I) EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY;**

12 **(II) EACH GAS COMPANY; AND**

13 **(III) EACH ELECTRICITY OR GAS SUPPLIER THAT DOES NOT BILL**
14 **CUSTOMERS THROUGH AN ELECTRIC OR GAS COMPANY.**

15 **(2) THE INITIAL REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION BY EACH**
16 **PERSON SHALL CONTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS.**

17 **(C) EACH REPORT SHALL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

18 **(1) FOR ELECTRICITY OR GAS SUPPLIED BY AN ELECTRIC OR GAS**
19 **SUPPLIER, BROKEN DOWN BY SUPPLIER:**

20 **(I) EACH UNIQUE RATE THAT IS CHARGED TO ONE OR MORE**
21 **RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS BY THE SUPPLIER;**

22 **(II) THE TOTAL KILOWATT-HOURS OR THERMS BILLED FOR**
23 **EACH UNIQUE RATE;**

24 **(III) THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT BILLED FOR EACH RATE**
25 **CLASS;**

26 **(IV) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS BILLED FOR EACH**
27 **RATE CLASS;**

28 **(V) THE NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS WHO PAY VARIABLE RATES**
29 **FOR SERVICE; AND**

1 (VI) THE FLUCTUATION IN EACH VARIABLE RATE AND WHETHER
2 THE FLUCTUATION INCREASES AND DECREASES ACCORDING TO MARKET RATES;
3 AND

4 (2) FOR STANDARD OFFER SERVICE OR UTILITY-PROCURED GAS:

5 (I) THE TOTAL KILOWATT-HOURS BILLED OR THERMS;

6 (II) THE TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT BILLED; AND

7 (III) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS BILLED.

8 (D) THE INFORMATION IN EACH REPORT SHALL BE ORGANIZED BY THE
9 FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

10 (1) ALL CUSTOMERS OTHER THAN LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS;

11 (2) ALL LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS; AND

12 (3) LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS THAT RECEIVE BENEFITS THROUGH
13 THE OFFICE OF HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS.

14 (E) THE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE EACH REPORT AVAILABLE TO THE
15 OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL AND THE OFFICE OF HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS.

16 (F) THE OFFICE OF HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS SHALL USE THE REPORTS
17 TO ANALYZE INFORMATION RELATING TO LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS, INCLUDING:

18 (1) CALCULATING THE OVERALL SAVINGS AND COSTS FOR EACH
19 SUPPLIER RELATIVE TO THE RATES FOR STANDARD OFFER SERVICE AND
20 UTILITY-PROCURED GAS;

21 (2) ESTIMATING THE NET TOTAL OR EXCESS COSTS OR SAVINGS
22 AVAILABLE FOR CUSTOMERS; AND

23 (3) FOR CUSTOMERS RECEIVING BENEFITS THROUGH THE OFFICE OF
24 HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS, ESTIMATING THE NET COST OR SAVINGS TO ENERGY
25 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS DUE TO THE CUSTOMER USE OF ELECTRICITY OR GAS
26 SUPPLIERS AS COMPARED TO THE USE OF STANDARD OFFER SERVICE OR
27 UTILITY-PROCURED GAS.

1 **(G) EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF**
2 **HOME ENERGY PROGRAMS, SHALL:**

3 **(1) PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN**
4 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THAT**
5 **CONTAINS THE ACTUAL BILLING INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS BY**
6 **ZIP CODE AND THE ANALYSES COMPLETED BY THE OFFICE OF HOME ENERGY**
7 **PROGRAMS UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

8 **(2) PUBLISH THE OVERVIEW REPORT ON THE COMMISSION'S**
9 **WEBSITE.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2019.