

Chapter 374

(Senate Bill 603)

AN ACT concerning

Public Service Commission – Electricity and Gas Suppliers – Training and Educational Program

FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to develop a training and educational program for certain licensed energy suppliers; requiring the Commission to develop the program in consultation with certain interested stakeholders; requiring certain designated representatives to demonstrate a thorough understanding of certain Commission regulations; requiring the Commission to conduct an examination at the conclusion of training and provide certification on a satisfactory score; requiring the Commission to determine the schedule and frequency of certain training and certification; requiring certain licensed suppliers to complete certain training and certification prior to the issuance of a license; authorizing the Commission to adopt certain regulations; requiring the Commission to use certain assessments to fund the initial development of the program; authorizing the Commission to establish certain fees to pay for program costs; and generally relating to training and education for energy suppliers.

BY adding to

Article – Public Utilities

Section 7–311

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2010 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – Public Utilities

7–311.

(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP A TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR ANY ENTITY OR INDIVIDUAL THAT IS LICENSED BY THE COMMISSION AS AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER OR A GAS SUPPLIER.

(B) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP THE PROGRAM IN CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS AND GAS SUPPLIERS.

(C) THE PROGRAM SHALL REQUIRE THAT A DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH LICENSED ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER OR LICENSED GAS SUPPLIER

DEMONSTRATE A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMMISSION'S REGULATIONS REGARDING:

- (1) SALES;**
- (2) CONSUMER PROTECTION; AND**
- (3) ANY OTHER MATTER THE COMMISSION DEEMS APPROPRIATE.**

(D) AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TRAINING, THE COMMISSION SHALL:

- (1) CONDUCT AN EXAMINATION; AND**
- (2) ON A SATISFACTORY SCORE, CERTIFY THAT THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LICENSED ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER OR LICENSED GAS SUPPLIER HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE TRAINING.**

(E) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE THE SCHEDULE AND FREQUENCY BY WHICH A DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF A LICENSED ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER OR LICENSED GAS SUPPLIER MUST COMPLETE THE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.

(2) A DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF A NEW ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER OR GAS SUPPLIER SHALL COMPLETE THE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF A LICENSE.

(F) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT INCLUDE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES OR SANCTIONS FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS SECTION.

(G) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL USE THE ASSESSMENTS COLLECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-110 OF THIS ARTICLE FOR THE INITIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

(2) THE COMMISSION MAY ESTABLISH REASONABLE FEES TO PAY FOR THE COSTS OF THE PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.