

7-502. RESERVED.

7-503. RESERVED.

PART II. ELECTRIC INDUSTRY RESTRUCTURING ENABLED.

7-504.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE IS TO:

(1) ESTABLISH CUSTOMER CHOICE OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SERVICES;

(2) CREATE COMPETITIVE RETAIL ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SERVICES MARKETS;

(3) DEREGULATE THE GENERATION, SUPPLY, AND PRICING OF ELECTRICITY;

(4) PROVIDE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR ALL CUSTOMER CLASSES; AND

(5) ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS.

7-505.

(A) (1) IN ASSESSING AND APPROVING EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY'S RESTRUCTURING PLAN, AND OVERSEEING THE TRANSITION PROCESS AND REGULATION OF THE RESTRUCTURED ELECTRIC INDUSTRY, THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE THAT THE TRANSITION TO A COMPETITIVE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SERVICES MARKET SHALL BE ORDERLY, MAINTAIN ELECTRIC SYSTEM RELIABILITY, AND ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS, BE FAIR TO CUSTOMERS, ELECTRIC COMPANY INVESTORS, CUSTOMERS OF MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES, ELECTRIC COMPANIES, AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLIERS, AND PROVIDE ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO ALL CUSTOMER CLASSES.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER THE RESTRUCTURING PLANS OF MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES, AS SPECIFIED UNDER § 7-510 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE THE ORDERS OR ADOPT THE REGULATIONS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION BEFORE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CUSTOMER CHOICE.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL ORDER A UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAM, TO BE MADE AVAILABLE ON A STATEWIDE BASIS, TO BENEFIT LOW-INCOME CUSTOMERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-512.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL ORDER AN ELECTRIC COMPANY TO ADOPT POLICIES AND PRACTICES REASONABLY DESIGNED TO PREVENT: