

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Public Utility Companies

Section 7-505(b)(1) through (4), (6), (7), (11), and (12) and 7-507(e), (h), (i), (k), and (l)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Volume and 2000 Supplement)

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

Article - Public Utility Companies

7-502.

(A) EXCEPT AS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE APPLIED TO A SMALL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE THAT:

- (1) HAS LESS THAN 10% OF ITS DISTRIBUTION TERRITORY WITHIN THE STATE;
- (2) MAINTAINS ITS PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS OUTSIDE THE STATE; AND
- (3) IS SUBJECT TO, AND CONDUCTS ITS OPERATIONS WITHIN THE STATE IN COMPLIANCE WITH, THE LAWS OF THE STATE IN WHICH ITS PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IS LOCATED.

(B) (1) A SMALL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, SHALL BE SUBJECT TO ALL REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITIONS ADOPTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF §§ 7-505 (B) (1) THROUGH (4), (6), (7), (11), AND (12) AND 7-507(E), (H), (I), (K), AND (L) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(2) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A SMALL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A MEMBER OF A SMALL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WHO THAT RECEIVES ELECTRICITY OR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SERVICES FROM AN ENTITY OTHER THAN THE SMALL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MAY RECEIVE THESE SERVICES ONLY FROM AN ENTITY THAT IS LICENSED UNDER § 7-507 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

7-505.

(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: