

# HOUSE BILL 1482

C5

4lr3271

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By: **Delegate Conaway**

Introduced and read first time: February 24, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Electricity – Customer Billing – Smart Meter Installation and Maintenance**  
3 **Costs**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring an electric company to give certain written notice to  
5 certain customers before installing smart meters on a customer's premises  
6 under certain circumstances; specifying the contents of a certain notice;  
7 prohibiting an electric company from billing a customer for certain charges  
8 except under certain circumstances; prohibiting an electric company from  
9 charging a customer more for the installation and maintenance of a smart  
10 meter than for the installation and maintenance of an analog meter; defining a  
11 certain term; and generally relating to electricity service and smart meters.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Public Utilities

14 Section 7–302.1

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Public Utilities**

20 **7–302.1.**

21 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “SMART METER” MEANS A DIGITAL METER THAT**  
22 **ALLOWS TWO–WAY COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AN ELECTRIC CUSTOMER’S**  
23 **PREMISES AND AN ELECTRIC COMPANY THROUGH A WIRELESS NETWORK.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, IF AN ELECTRIC**  
2 **COMPANY DEPLOYS SMART METERS THROUGHOUT ALL OR A PORTION OF THE**  
3 **ELECTRIC COMPANY'S SERVICE TERRITORY, THE ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL**  
4 **GIVE WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE DEPLOYMENT TO EACH CUSTOMER IN THE**  
5 **AFFECTED PORTION OF THE SERVICE TERRITORY.**

6           **(2) THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
7 **SUBSECTION SHALL DISCLOSE ANY COSTS TO THE CUSTOMER ASSOCIATED WITH**  
8 **THE INSTALLATION OR MAINTENANCE OF A SMART METER ON THE CUSTOMER'S**  
9 **PREMISES.**

10           **(C) AN ELECTRIC COMPANY MAY NOT:**

11           **(1) BILL A CUSTOMER FOR SMART METER INSTALLATION OR**  
12 **MAINTENANCE CHARGES THAT WERE NOT DISCLOSED TO THE CUSTOMER PRIOR**  
13 **TO THE INSTALLATION OF THE SMART METER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
14 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; OR**

15           **(2) CHARGE A CUSTOMER MORE FOR THE INSTALLATION AND**  
16 **MAINTENANCE OF A SMART METER THAN THE ELECTRIC COMPANY CHARGES**  
17 **FOR THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF AN ANALOG METER.**

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 June 1, 2014.