

# HOUSE BILL 295

C5, I3

6lr1770

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By: **Delegate Krimm**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2016

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Electricity – Explanation of Bill Charges**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an electric company to provide a certain explanation of  
4 certain charges on a customer's electric bill; and generally relating to electric service.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article – Public Utilities  
7 Section 7–305  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Public Utilities**

13 7–305.

14 (a) A gas company or electric company may bill its customers for gas, electricity,  
15 or any other service it renders only on the basis of the net total cost of the service under the  
16 applicable rate that is filed for that service.

17 (b) (1) The Commission may authorize a gas company or electric company to  
18 apply an additional charge over the net total cost to any bill or part of a bill that is not paid:

19 (i) within 20 days for a residential customer or residential  
20 cooperative; or

21 (ii) within 15 days for any other customer.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           (2)   (i)    The additional charge that is applied by a gas company or electric  
2 company under this subsection may not exceed 5% of the net bill or part of the bill.

3                   (ii)   Unless the Commission approves the imposition of different  
4 charges on different classes of customers, any additional charges applied by a gas company  
5 or electric company under this subsection shall be uniform for all customers.

6           **(C)   (1)    AN ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL INCLUDE IN ITS CUSTOMER BILL  
7 AN EXPLANATION OF EACH CHARGE THAT IS LISTED IN THE BILL.**

8                   **(2)    THE EXPLANATION OF EACH CHARGE SHALL:**

9                           **(I)    DISCLOSE WHETHER THE CHARGE IS A UNIFORM CHARGE, A  
10 CHARGE BASED ON CUSTOMER CLASS, A CHARGE BASED ON USAGE, A ONE-TIME  
11 ASSESSMENT, OR ANOTHER TYPE OF CHARGE, FEE, OR ASSESSMENT; AND**

12                           **(II)   INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE CHARGE IS  
13 CALCULATED, HOW THE CHARGE IS AUTHORIZED, AND WHAT THE PURPOSE OF THE  
14 CHARGE IS.**

15                   **(3)    IF A CUSTOMER BILL INCLUDES INFORMATION RELATING TO  
16 MORE THAN ONE METER OR CUSTOMER ACCOUNT, THE EXPLANATION NEED NOT BE  
17 DUPLICATED, SO LONG AS IT IS CLEAR TO WHICH CHARGES EACH EXPLANATION  
18 REFERS.**

19           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2016.