

SENATE BILL 1013

C5

4r3087
CF 4r3052

By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2014

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utilities – Billing for Noncommodity Products and Services –**
3 **Prohibition**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a gas company or an electric company from billing its
5 customers for noncommodity products and services; defining a certain term; and
6 generally relating to customer billing by a gas company or an electric company.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Public Utilities
9 Section 7–305
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Public Utilities**

15 7–305.

16 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “NONCOMMODITY PRODUCT OR SERVICE” MEANS**
17 **A PRODUCT OR SERVICE THAT IS:**

18 **(1) NOT RELATED TO GAS SUPPLY OR ELECTRICITY SUPPLY; AND**

19 **(2) OFFERED BY A THIRD PARTY THAT IS NOT AN AFFILIATE OF**
20 **THE GAS COMPANY OR ELECTRIC COMPANY.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **[(a)] (B) (1)** A gas company or electric company may bill its customers
2 for gas, electricity, or any other service it renders only on the basis of the net total cost
3 of the service under the applicable rate that is filed for that service.

4 **(2) A GAS COMPANY OR AN ELECTRIC COMPANY MAY NOT BILL**
5 **ITS CUSTOMERS FOR A NONCOMMODITY PRODUCT OR SERVICE.**

6 **[(b)] (C) (1)** The Commission may authorize a gas company or electric
7 company to apply an additional charge over the net total cost to any bill or part of a
8 bill that is not paid:

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

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

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

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

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