

HOUSE BILL 1518

C5

4lr3280

By: **Delegate Conaway**

Introduced and read first time: February 28, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Electric Companies – Notices Left at Customer Premises – Option to Decline**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an electric company, under certain circumstances, to
4 send by first-class mail a certain written notice each year to certain customers
5 explaining under what circumstances the electric company may leave a certain
6 notice at a certain place; requiring the electric company to provide a customer
7 the opportunity to decline to receive certain notices in a certain manner;
8 providing a certain process by which a certain customer will be deemed to have
9 given certain permission; and generally relating to permission by customers for
10 electric companies to leave certain notices at certain places on the customer's
11 premises.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Public Utilities

14 Section 7-310

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 **7-310.**

21 **(A) EACH YEAR, BEFORE AN ELECTRIC COMPANY MAY LEAVE A NOTICE**
22 **AT OR NEAR THE ENTRY DOOR OF ANY CUSTOMER'S PREMISES, THE ELECTRIC**
23 **COMPANY SHALL SEND BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL A WRITTEN NOTICE WITH A**
24 **POSTAGE PAID RETURN ENVELOPE TO EACH CUSTOMER EXPLAINING UNDER**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES THE ELECTRIC COMPANY MAY LEAVE A NOTICE AT OR
2 NEAR THE ENTRY DOOR OF THE CUSTOMER'S PREMISES.

3 (B) IN THE WRITTEN NOTICE MAILED TO EACH CUSTOMER UNDER THIS
4 SECTION THE ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE THE CUSTOMER THE
5 OPPORTUNITY TO DECLINE TO RECEIVE NOTICES AT OR NEAR THE ENTRY DOOR
6 OF THE CUSTOMER'S PREMISES EXCEPT FOR:

7 (1) EMERGENCY NOTICES; AND

8 (2) NOTICES OF SERVICE TERMINATION.

9 (C) A CUSTOMER IS DEEMED TO HAVE GIVEN PERMISSION TO THE
10 ELECTRIC COMPANY TO LEAVE A NOTICE AT OR NEAR THE ENTRY DOOR OF THE
11 CUSTOMER'S PREMISES:

12 (1) ON RECEIPT BY THE ELECTRIC COMPANY OF A RETURNED
13 NOTICE EXPLICITLY GRANTING PERMISSION; OR

14 (2) IF AFTER 30 DAYS AFTER THE NOTICE IS SENT TO THE
15 CUSTOMER, THE NOTICE IS NOT RETURNED TO THE ELECTRIC COMPANY.

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