C55lr2472CF 5lr2495

By: Delegates A. Miller, Frick, Korman, Carr, Dumais, Fraser-Hidalgo, Kelly, S. Robinson, and Tarlau

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2015

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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7-213.

(a)

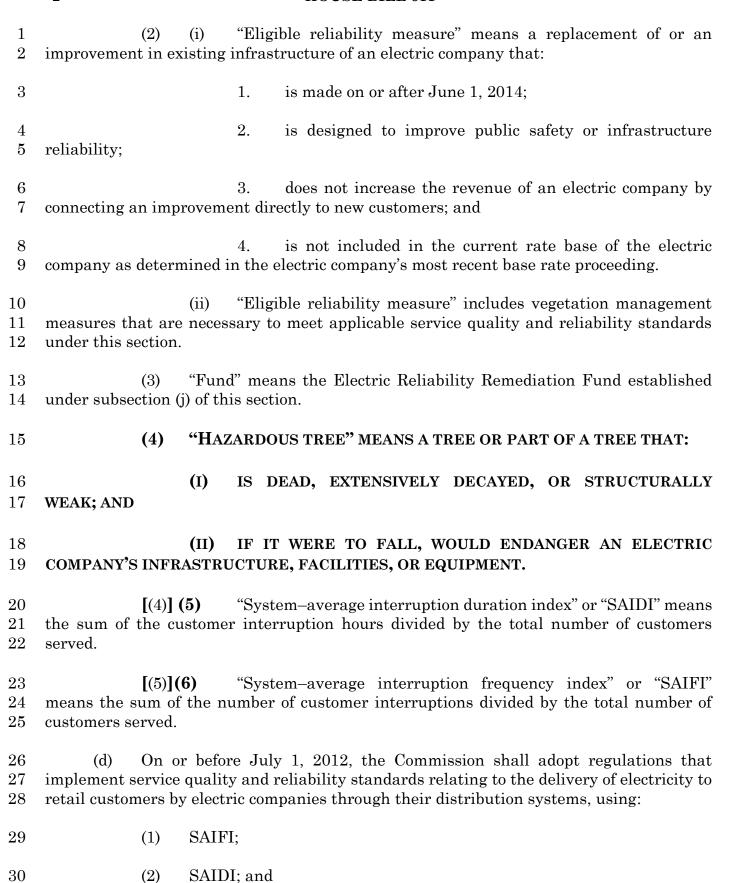
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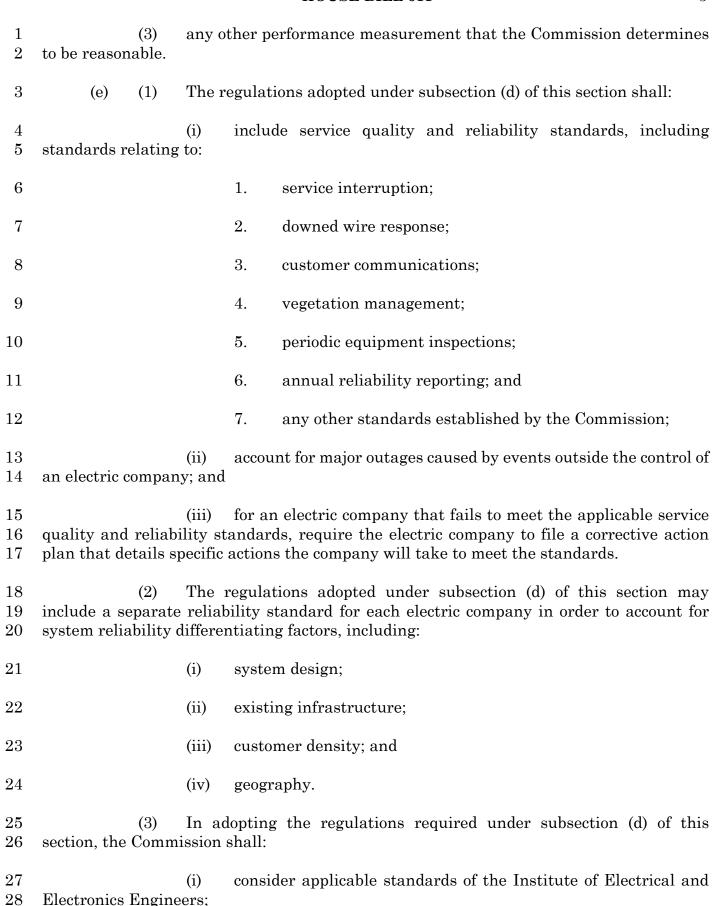
A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN ACT concerning
2	Public Utilities - Electric Companies - Vegetation Management
3	FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission, in adopting certain
4	vegetation management regulations, to require that an electric company's vegetation
5	management program comply with certain standards and to prohibit an electric
6	company from removing a tree on private property unless certain criteria are met;
7	defining a certain term; and generally relating to vegetation management by electric
8	companies.
9	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10	Article – Public Utilities
11	Section 7–213(a) and (e)
12	Annotated Code of Maryland
13	(2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)
14	BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15	Article – Public Utilities
16	Section 7–213(d)
17	Annotated Code of Maryland
18	(2010 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)
19	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20	That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
21	Article - Public Utilities

In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.







HOUSE BILL 611

1 2	(ii) ensure that the service quality and reliability standards are cost-effective; and
3 4	(iii) with respect to standards relating to vegetation management[, consider]:
5 6	1. CONSIDER limitations on an electric company's right to access private property; [and]
7 8	2. CONSIDER customer acceptance of vegetation management initiatives;
9 10 11 12	3. REQUIRE THAT AN ELECTRIC COMPANY'S VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM COMPLY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE'S BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR UTILITY PRUNING OF TREES; AND
13 14	4. PROHIBIT AN ELECTRIC COMPANY FROM REMOVING A TREE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY UNLESS:
15	A. THE TREE IS A HAZARDOUS TREE; AND
16 17	B. THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNER HAS CONSENTED TO REMOVAL OF THE HAZARDOUS TREE.
18 19 20 21	(4) A county or municipal corporation may not adopt or enforce a local law, rule, or regulation or take any other action that interferes with, or materially increases the cost of the work of an electric company toward, compliance with the vegetation management standards adopted under subsection (d) of this section.
22 23	SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.