

(Potomac Edison), Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, or Delmarva Power & Light Company that would be based on (1) the offer of multiple-year contracts for electricity at a fixed price per kilowatt-hour; (2) value-added products and services to help customers manage overall energy costs; and (3) other potential customer benefits. The Commission would have also been required to study and make recommendations on the advisability of allowing electric cooperatives to participate in the program, as well as on the manner in which the program, if advisable, should be conducted. Specifically, the Commission was to consider provisions relating to low-income customers to be assisted by such a program; the duration of customer contracts under the program; procedures governing wholesale electricity procurement for the program; the minimum qualifications of licensed electricity suppliers and associated providers of value-added products and services that would be eligible to participate in the program; and procedures and principles of cost recovery for the implementation of the program.

Although the HB 927/SB 1075 were not enacted, in a letter dated May 4, 2016, the Chairman of the House Economic Matters Committee asked the Commission to conduct the study, and report back to the relevant subject matter committees, House Economic Matters and Senate Finance. The Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee later also conveyed support for conducting the study.

The Commission agreed to provide findings and recommendations pertaining to the matters requested in a Report to be filed by January 31, 2017. To assist with this endeavor, the Commission engaged independent consultant Gabel to conduct a study regarding these matters on behalf of the Commission. Gabel submitted a Report of its evaluation on January 5, 2017 that is available electronically in the PC 47 docket on the Commission's web site. The Commission

invites all interested parties to file written comments regarding the Gabel Report on or before January 20, 2017.

An original and seventeen (17) copies, and an electronic copy, of all filings, identified as PC 47, shall be filed with the Commission no later than January 20, 2017 and addressed to David J. Collins, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. Five of the copies shall be three-hole punched. The interested parties are encouraged to use the Commission's "e-file" system that is available on the Commission's website, www.psc.state.md.us.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ David J. Collins

David J. Collins
Executive Secretary