MD SB 681 Electricity Suppliers and Gas Suppliers – Consumer Protections Senate Finance Committee February 25, 2020



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What other states have found:

- Most consumers pay more for competitive supply than they would have paid for service from their utility companies.
- The very small number of consumers who do manage to save money see only minor savings.
- Signs of targeting the poor: A higher percentage of low-income households were signed up to buy competitive supply and the rates were often higher than other non-poor shoppers.



Some Key Features of SB 681

- Empowers consumers by requiring a customer's written consent before a supplier's contract moves from a fixed rate to a variable rate.
- Limits early termination fees that trap consumers into overpriced supply contracts.
- Provides a price comparison of the suppliers rate and the standard offer rate on the bills and lists the price difference between the rates.
- NCLC supports SB 681.





Since 1969, the nonprofit National Consumer Law Center® (NCLC®) has worked for consumer justice and economic security for low-income and other disadvantaged people in the U.S. through its expertise in policy analysis and advocacy, publications, litigation, expert witness services, and training. www.nclc.org