

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 11-0315R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Stokes, Branch, Cole, Middleton, Holton, President Young,
Councilmembers Conaway, Henry, Welch, Curran, Clarke, Reisinger

Introduced and read first time: September 19, 2011

Assigned to: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Department of General Services, Mayor's Office of
Information Technology

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Informational Hearing - Creation of a "Baltimore City Electric Choice Website"**

3 FOR the purpose of inviting representatives from the Department of General Services, the
4 Mayor's Office of Information Technology, the Maryland Energy Administration, the
5 Maryland Public Service Commission, and the Office of the Maryland People's Counsel to
6 appear before the Council to discuss the feasibility of developing a "Baltimore City Electric
7 Choice Website" and the formation of a work group to consider the further development of
8 mechanisms to advance true competition in Baltimore City's residential and small
9 commercial mass electricity market.

10 **Recitals**

11 The deregulation of the consumer energy market, combined with a proliferation of
12 government and private programs to reduce bills and aid low income residents, means that today
13 consumers have more options to optimize their electric bills than ever before. Different
14 suppliers and programs offer a wide variety of rates, payment plans, contract lengths, and energy
15 sources.

16 With all of these options available, every family and small business should be able to
17 customize their power supply in a way that best meets their needs. However, the sheer variety of
18 options - each with different geographical limits, income requirements, or special conditions
19 listed in fine print scattered across a multitude of brochures and websites - can leave many
20 customers uncertain about which they are eligible for or which would truly work best for them.

21 In order to be effective a competitive electric services market requires that timely, accurate,
22 and adequate information about the products and services offered be readily available to all
23 residential and small commercial consumers. Baltimore's electric customers could benefit from
24 more and better education about their options, and a more customer-friendly means of switching
25 to alternative supply. All City residents deserve a local source for information that could help
26 them make educated energy decisions.

27 Accordingly, the City should consider creating a "Baltimore City Electric Choice Website"
28 for its residents. This site would initially provide information, on a zip-code by zip-code level,
29 about available energy suppliers and their rates; energy efficiency programs, including

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 weatherization and rebate programs; distributed renewable energy policies and programs; low
2 income utility assistance programs; and special offers available to local residents. The creation
3 of a well maintained website with this information would stimulate awareness for all classes of
4 energy consumers in Baltimore, as well as help to create sound City energy policy and maintain
5 stable energy prices for consumers.

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the
7 Council invites representatives from the Department of General Services, the Mayor's Office of
8 Information Technology, the Maryland Energy Administration, the Maryland Public Service
9 Commission, and the Office of the Maryland People's Counsel to appear before the Council to
10 discuss the feasibility of developing a "Baltimore City Electric Choice Website" and the
11 formation of a work group to consider the further development of mechanisms to advance true
12 competition in Baltimore City's residential and small commercial mass electricity market.

13 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
14 Director of General Services, the Chief Information Officer in the Mayor's Office of Information
15 Technology, the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration, the Director of the Maryland
16 Public Service Commission, the Maryland People's Counsel, and the Mayor's Legislative
17 Liaison to the City Council.