

The Electric Customer Choice and Competition Act of 1999

The past several years have seen a flurry of changes in the energy industry in Maryland. In 1999, the Maryland General Assembly enacted legislation that would cause the electric industry in Maryland to become deregulated. This bill, the Electric Customer Choice and Competition Act of 1999, was signed into law by Democratic Governor Parris Glendening. Prior to this legislation, the local electric utility was in charge of procuring and delivering power to the people in their service territory. Under the new legislation, the consumer could choose to continue to purchase power from the local utility [known as Standard Offer Service or SOS] or Provider of Last Resort [POLR] or purchase power from an electric retail supplier. The local utility would still be responsible for the delivery of the power to the home or building.