

Chapter 286

(House Bill 623)

AN ACT concerning

Corporations and Associations – Electric Cooperatives – Electronic Notices and Voting

FOR the purpose of authorizing a certain electric cooperative to provide notice of each meeting of its members by electronic transmission under certain circumstances; authorizing a certain person to waive notice of a meeting of the members of an electric cooperative by electronic transmission under certain circumstances; authorizing voting by members of an electric cooperative by electronic transmission under certain circumstances; requiring, under certain circumstances, the bylaws of an electric cooperative to establish the conditions under which voting by electronic transmission is allowed; and generally relating to electric cooperatives.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Corporations and Associations
Section 1–101(a) and (m)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Corporations and Associations
Section 5–617 and 5–619
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2007 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Corporations and Associations

1–101.

(a) In this article, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following words have the meanings indicated.

(m) “Electronic transmission” means any form of communication, not directly involving the physical transmission of paper, that creates a record that:

(1) May be retained, retrieved, and reviewed by a recipient of the communication; and

(2) May be reproduced directly in paper form by a recipient through an automated process.

5-617.

(a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, notice of each meeting of the members shall be mailed **OR PROVIDED BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION** to each member not less than 10 days or more than 90 days before the date of the meeting.

(2) The notice shall state:

(i) The time and place of the meeting; and

(ii) If the meeting is a special meeting, the purpose of the meeting.

(b) (1) A person entitled to notice of a meeting may waive notice in writing **OR BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION** either before or after the meeting.

(2) If a person entitled to notice of a meeting attends the meeting, the person's presence shall constitute a waiver of notice of the meeting, unless the person participates in the meeting solely to object to the transaction of any business because the meeting has not been legally called or convened.

5-619.

(a) Each member of a cooperative is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members.

(b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, voting shall be in person.

(2) (i) If the bylaws so provide, voting also may be by proxy, [or] by mail, **OR BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**[, or both].

(ii) If the bylaws provide for voting by proxy, [or] by mail, **OR BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION**, they also shall establish the conditions under which voting by proxy, [or] by mail, **OR BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION** is allowed.

(c) A person may not vote by proxy for more than three members at any meeting of the members.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2012.