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ROBERT L. EHRLICH JR., GOVERNOR  
MICHAEL S. STEELE, LT. GOVERNOR  
MICHAEL T. RICHARD, DIRECTOR

Contact: Lauren Robbins  
Public Information Officer  
The Maryland Energy Administration  
410-260-7542

## **MEA TO WORK QUICKLY ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS ACT**

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. has called upon the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to work quickly to adopt the provisions of the Energy Efficiency Standards Act, in light of the Maryland General Assembly's actions over the past week.

"The Governor requires the best efforts of his Department and Agency leaders in carrying out their duties to the State. Now that this Act is law, MEA is reviewing the legislation as it fulfills this legislative mandate," said MEA Director Michael T. Richard.

MEA has begun writing the initial drafts of regulations and is collecting the energy efficiency standards that were referred to in the legislation for their implementation as minimum State standards. MEA also is studying best practices to carry out the testing and enforcement mandates required by the legislation.

MEA also is working to provide, to the Maryland General Assembly, a report on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's study of energy use and potential efficiency of cable television set-top boxes, which is required by the Act.

Although the deadline dates for several of the Act's provisions passed before the General Assembly's actions this week, MEA will work to meet these requirements as quickly as possible.

MEA would like to remind Marylanders that they do not have to wait until March of 2007, when the new provisions are in place to enjoy the energy savings and the environmental benefits of efficient appliances. Governor Ehrlich, as spokesman for the Maryland ENERGY STAR Program, calls upon all Marylanders to look for the ENERGY STAR label when purchasing light bulbs and appliances. Marylanders also have until June 30 to take advantage of tax exemptions for specific ENERGY STAR appliances and electric and hybrid vehicles. A tax credit is also available until Dec. 31 for the purchase of solar panels.

For more information about the Maryland ENERGY STAR Program, go to [www.energy.state.md.us](http://www.energy.state.md.us) or call Sherry Reilly at 410-260-7523. For information about implementing the Energy Efficiency Standards Act, contact David Cronin at 410-260-7543.