

## Chapter 367

**(Senate Bill 131)**

AN ACT concerning

**Public Service Commission – Rate Suspension Proceedings**

FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing~~ altering the number of days the Public Service Commission may initially suspend a new rate or change in rate proposed by a public service company; ~~repealing the Commission's authority to extend the rate suspension for a certain number of days if the Commission makes a certain finding; authorizing the Commission to extend the rate suspension proceedings for a certain number of days if the filing is for an alternative form of ratemaking for an electric company, gas company, electric and gas company, or telephone~~ a public service company; and generally relating to the rate suspension proceedings of the Public Service Commission.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
 Article – Public Utilities  
 Section 4–204(a) and (b)(1)  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 Article – Public Utilities  
 Section 4–204(b)(2)  
 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

**Article – Public Utilities**

4–204.

(a) (1) The Commission may suspend, effective immediately and without formal proceedings, any new rate or change in rate proposed by a public service company.

(2) Unless suspended by the Commission, and subject to § 4–203 of this subtitle, a new rate or change in rate proposed by a public service company takes effect on the date specified in the rate application.

(3) The Commission shall furnish to the public service company proposing a rate a written statement of the reasons for the suspension.

(b) (1) The Commission promptly shall institute proceedings to consider whether the suspended rate is a just and reasonable rate.

(2) The Commission may:

(i) suspend the rate initially for not more than ~~150~~ 180 days after the proposed effective date; and

(ii) ~~1. extend the suspension for an additional 30 days if the Commission finds that the proceedings cannot be completed within the initial suspension period; OR~~

~~2. EXTEND THE PROCEEDINGS SUSPENSION FOR UP TO AN ADDITIONAL ~~120~~ 90 DAYS IF THE FILING IS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF RATEMAKING FOR AN ELECTRIC COMPANY, A GAS COMPANY, AN ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY, OR A TELEPHONE A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2022.