

SENATE BILL 131

C5

(PRE-FILED)

2lr0443
CF 2lr1547

By: **Senator Kelley**

Requested: September 8, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission – Rate Suspension Proceedings**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Public Service Commission to extend rate suspension
4 proceedings for a certain number of days if the filing is for an alternative form of
5 ratemaking for an electric company, gas company, electric and gas company, or
6 telephone company; and generally relating to the rate suspension proceedings of the
7 Public Service Commission.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Public Utilities
10 Section 4–204(a) and (b)(1)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Public Utilities
15 Section 4–204(b)(2)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Public Utilities**

21 4–204.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

8 (2) The Commission may:

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

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

14 **2. EXTEND THE PROCEEDINGS FOR UP TO AN**
15 **ADDITIONAL 120 DAYS IF THE FILING IS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF**
16 **RATEMAKING FOR AN ELECTRIC COMPANY, A GAS COMPANY, AN ELECTRIC AND GAS**
17 **COMPANY, OR A TELEPHONE COMPANY.**

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