

UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 131

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SENATE BILL 131

(PRE-FILED)

2lr0443  
CF 2lr1547

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By: **Senator Kelley**

Requested: September 8, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Finance

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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 suspend a new rate or change in rate for a  
4 certain number of days after the proposed effective date; authorizing the Commission to extend the  
5 rate suspension

6 ~~proceedings~~ for a certain number of days if the filing is for an alternative form of  
7 ~~ratemaking for an electric company, gas company, electric and gas company, or~~  
8 ~~telephone company~~ a public service company; and generally relating to the rate suspension  
9 proceedings of the  
10 Public Service Commission.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

12 Article - Public Utilities

13 Section 4-204(a) and (b)(1)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

17 Article - Public Utilities

18 Section 4-204(b)(2)

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article - Public Utilities**

24 4-204.

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

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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~~ **180** 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 SUSPENSION FOR UP TO AN~~  
15 ~~ADDITIONAL 120 90 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 A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY.~~

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