

Public Service Commission - Citizens' Advisory Board

FOR the purpose of creating a Utility Consumer Advisory Panel to advise and assist the Public Service Commission and the people's counsel on certain problems of certain utility consumers; and generally relating to the creation of a Utility Consumer Advisory Panel.

BY adding to

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law
Section 3A
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1975 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law

3A.

(A) ~~(1)~~ IN THIS SECTION THE TERMS "UTILITY" AND "UTILITY COMPANY" MEAN ANY GAS COMPANY, ELECTRIC COMPANY, GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, OR TELEPHONE COMPANY.

~~(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT A MORE FORMAL MECHANISM SHOULD BE CREATED TO INSURE THAT THE UTILITY CONSUMERS' PROBLEMS, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES ARE BEING PROPERLY CONSIDERED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION. THEREFORE, THERE IS A UTILITY CONSUMER ADVISORY PANEL IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.~~

(B) THE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVISORY PANEL IS CREATED WITHIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND SHALL ADVISE THE COMMISSION ON GENERAL GOALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS, UNDERTAKE STUDIES AND ISSUE REPORTS, AND FOSTER COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING REGARDING UTILITY MATTERS AMONG FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AS WELL AS PRIVATE GROUPS AND CONSUMERS.

(C) THE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVISORY PANEL SHALL ADVISE THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL ON GENERAL GOALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS, AND SHALL ALSO RENDER ADVICE ON SPECIFIC CONSUMER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL IN FORMULATING POLICY IN RATE CASES, INVESTIGATIONS, AND OTHER MATTERS IN WHICH THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE INVOLVED.

(D) THE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVISORY PANEL MAY MEET AT TIMES AS ITS MEMBERS MAY DECIDE. HOWEVER, THE PANEL SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE EVERY THREE MONTHS WITH THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL TO RENDER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO THEM.