

*and conditions of employment which might lead to such disputes can best be accomplished by encouraging collective bargaining between employers and representatives freely designated or selected by their employees; but that the intervention of government is necessary to protect the public health and safety whenever an industrial dispute which has not been settled by collective bargaining threatens an immediate and substantial interruption in the performance of such services which would dangerously curtail their availability in any community.*

*12D. Declaration of Policy.—It is hereby declared to be the policy of this State:*

*(1) to place primary responsibility upon the employers and representatives freely designated or selected by employees for the avoidance of any interruption in the rendering of public utility services resulting from differences concerning wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment and*

*(2) in the event that a peaceful adjustment of such differences is not accomplished by collective bargaining, to provide procedures for government intervention and the establishment of wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment without any interruption in the rendering of such services which would dangerously curtail their availability in any community.*

*12E. Definitions of Terms used in this sub-title.*

*(1) The term "public utility" or "public utility employer" means a private employer engaged in the business of rendering electric, gas, water, steam, heat, and transportation of passengers by rail, water, air, or motor vehicle other than taxi-cab service to the public in the State of Maryland;*

(1) THE TERM "PUBLIC UTILITY" OR "PUBLIC UTILITY EMPLOYER" MEANS ANY EMPLOYER (OTHER THAN THE STATE OR ANY POLITICAL SUB-DIVISION THEREOF) SUBJECT TO THE JURISDICTION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF MARYLAND AND ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF FURNISHING SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC IN THIS STATE AS A COMMON CARRIER COMPANY, GAS COMPANY, ELECTRIC COMPANY, STEAM HEATING COMPANY, TELEPHONE COMPANY, TELEGRAPH COMPANY, WATER COMPANY AND/OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF, ALL AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 78. SECTION 2 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, 1955 SUPPLEMENT.

*(2) "Person" includes one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, legal representatives, trustees, trustees in bankruptcy, or receivers;*

*(3) "Employer" includes any person acting in the interest of an employer directly or indirectly but shall not include the State or any political sub-division thereof or any labor organization (other than when acting as an employer) or any one acting in the capacity of officer or agent of such labor organization;*

*(4) "Employee" shall include any employee and shall not be limited to the employees of a particular employer, and shall include*