

Service Commission Law," subtitle "Enforcement and Penalties," subheading "Forfeiture and Other Sanctions," to follow immediately after Section 102 thereof, to provide for civil penalties for gas companies violating any provision of the Public Service Commission's standards of safe service or other regulations related to safety.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 102A be, and it is hereby, added to Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume), title "Public Service Commission Law," subtitle "Enforcement and Penalties," subheading "Forfeiture and Other Sanctions," to follow immediately after Section 102 thereof, and to read as follows:

102A. Civil Penalty for Gas Companies.

(a) Any gas company which violates any provision of the Commission's standards of safe service, or other regulations related to safety as adopted in accordance with Section 73 of this Article, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation for each day that the violation persists. However, the maximum civil penalty shall not exceed \$200,000 for any related series of violations.

(b) The amount of any civil penalty shall be determined by the Commission. Upon request of the gas company involved, and within 30 days of the date of notification of the determination, the gas company may request reconsideration for the purpose of obtaining a compromise. The Commission in making the determination as to the amount of any civil penalty or any compromise thereof shall consider the appropriateness of the penalty to the size of the business of the gas company charged, the gravity of the violation and the good faith of the gas company charged in attempting to achieve compliance, after notification of violation. The amount of the penalty, when finally determined, or the amount agreed upon in compromise, may be deducted from any sums owing by the State to the gas company charged or may be recovered in a civil action in the State courts.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1970.

Approved April 22, 1970

CHAPTER 296
(Senate Bill 593)

AN ACT to add new Section 248A to Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1967 Replacement Volume), title "Crimes and Punishments," subtitle "Crimes and Punishments," subheading "Gaming," to follow immediately after Section 248 thereof providing it shall not be unlawful for certain organizations or corporations in Carroll County to conduct or operate a game of bingo and relating generally to these operations, and to the securing of permits therefor from the Board of County Commissioners of Carroll County.