

(2) Computations required by the provisions of subsection (a) (6) shall be made by the Executive Director, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the United States Secretary of Labor.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1971.

Approved May 28, 1971.

CHAPTER 791

(House Bill 1170)

AN ACT to add new Section 54B to Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1970 Supplement), title "Public Service Commission Law," subtitle "Public Service Companies," subheading "Gas and Electric Companies," to follow immediately after Section 54A thereof, to provide that gas and electric companies shall bill customers on the basis of the net total cost of the service, to authorize the Public Service Commission to allow an additional charge on past due bills, to provide restrictions on the additional charge allowed, and to require that rates in excess of those permitted be revised by a certain date.

WHEREAS, THERE IS A WIDE DISPARITY BETWEEN LATE CHARGES PRESENTLY LEVIED BY THE STATE'S 17 ELECTRIC UTILITIES, 10 GAS UTILITIES, AND 2 GAS AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES RANGING FROM ZERO TO EIGHTEEN PERCENT (0-18%) PER MONTH; AND

WHEREAS, THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON FEBRUARY 3, 1971, STATED NINE COMPANIES NOW HAVE A DIFFERENTIAL IN EXCESS OF FIVE PERCENT (5%) PER MONTH; AND

WHEREAS, THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION INDICATED IN THAT SAME REPORT THAT SUCH DIFFERENTIAL SHOULD NOT EXCEED FIVE (5%) PER MONTH; AND

WHEREAS, THE STATE'S LARGEST GAS AND ELECTRIC UTILITY HAS IN THE PROCEEDING NOW PENDING BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REFLECTED THIS REDUCTION TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) PER MONTH IN ITS RATE FILING; AND

WHEREAS, THIS REPRESENTS A REDUCTION FROM TEN PERCENT (10%) PER MONTH TO FIVE PERCENT (5%) PER MONTH FOR A MAJOR SEGMENT OF MARYLAND'S CITIZENS; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new Section 54B be and it is hereby added to Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1970