

MISSION. UPON RECEIPT OF NOTICE, THE COMMISSION MAY SUSPEND THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ANY PROPOSED CHANGE. IN ANY SUCH CASE A FORMAL WRITTEN STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE SUSPENSION WILL BE PROMPTLY SUBMITTED TO THE INSTITUTION. UNLESS SUSPENDED, ANY PROPOSED CHANGE SHALL GO INTO EFFECT UPON THE DATE SPECIFIED IN THE APPLICATION.

(2) IN ANY CASE WHERE SUCH ACTION IS DEEMED NECESSARY, THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMPTLY INSTITUTE PROCEEDINGS AS TO THE REASONABLENESS OF THE PROPOSAL. THE SUSPENSION MAY EXTEND FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN 30 DAYS BEYOND THE DATE THE CHANGE WOULD OTHERWISE GO INTO EFFECT; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY, THE COMMISSION MAY EXTEND THE SUSPENSION FOR AN ADDITIONAL 30 DAYS. AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF 90 DAYS THE NEW RATE WILL GO INTO EFFECT, IF THE COMMISSION DOES NOT APPROVE, DISAPPROVE OR MODIFY THE REQUEST BY THAT TIME.

(3) IN ANY CASE WHERE THE COMMISSION DEEMS IT NECESSARY SUCH PROPOSALS SHALL BE CONSIDERED AT A PUBLIC HEARING, THE TIME AND PLACE OF WHICH SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION. THE HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION AT WHICH TIME EVIDENCE FOR AND AGAINST THE REQUESTED CHANGE MAY BE INTRODUCED BY ANY INTERESTED PARTY AND WITNESSES MAY BE HEARD. THE HEARING MAY BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT COMPLIANCE WITH FORMAL RULES OF EVIDENCE.

(4) THE COMMISSION MAY, IN ITS DISCRETION, PERMIT ANY INSTITUTION TO MAKE A TEMPORARY CHANGE IN RATES WHICH SHALL BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON FILING AND IN ADVANCE OF ANY REVIEW PROCEDURE WHEN IT DEEMS IT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST TO DO SO. NOTWITHSTANDING SUCH TEMPORARY CHANGE IN RATES, THE REVIEW PROCEDURES SET OUT HEREIN SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION AS SOON THEREAFTER AS IS PRACTICABLE.

(5) EVERY DECISION AND ORDER OF THE COMMISSION IN ANY CONTESTED PROCEEDING SHALL BE IN WRITING AND SHALL STATE THE GROUNDS FOR THE COMMISSION'S CONCLUSIONS. THE EFFECTS OF SUCH ORDERS SHALL BE PROSPECTIVE IN NATURE.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety and having been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, the same shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved May 26, 1972.