

COST OF PURCHASED OR LEASED FUEL TO THE EXTENT THAT THE COST IS DETERMINED BY FACTORS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE COMPANY AND MAY ALLOW ANY NON-GENERATING ELECTRIC COMPANY TO ESTABLISH A SLIDING SCALE FOR PURCHASE POWER COST ADJUSTMENT. THE COMMISSION MAY ALLOW ANY GAS OR ELECTRIC COMPANY TO AUTOMATICALLY ADJUST CHARGES FOR ANY RATE CHANGE APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION OR ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY AND MAY ALLOW AUTOMATIC REIMBURSEMENT FOR ANY STATE OR LOCAL TAX OR SURCHARGE. No such scale shall be effective, however, until filed with the Commission SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 54D; and nothing in this section shall be construed as derogating in any respect from the paramount jurisdiction of the Commission over the rates of such companies.

54D.

Any gas or electric company which directly passes on to its customers any change in its fuel costs is required each month to verify and justify the adjusted fuel costs to the Commission. The Commission [may] SHALL conduct a public hearing IN THE SERVICE AREA AFFECTED [where it deems it necessary] NO LESS FREQUENTLY THAN ONCE EVERY SIX MONTHS ON THESE CHANGES. THE COMMISSION ~~MAY~~ SHALL ORDER A COMPANY TO CHARGE OFF AND AMORTIZE, BY MEANS OF A TEMPORARY DECREASE OF RATES ANY CHARGES IT FINDS ~~ARE~~ WERE UNJUSTIFIED BY DETERMINING THAT THE COMPANY HAS IMPROPERLY CALCULATED THE CHARGE, HAS FAILED TO USE PROPER FUEL PROCUREMENT PRACTICES, OR HAS USED THIS CHARGE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE PUBLIC.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1977.

Approved May 26, 1977.

CHAPTER 696

(Senate Bill 198)

AN ACT concerning

Public Service Companies - Proposed New Rates

FOR the purpose of providing for a new procedure for dealing with suspension of proposed rates of certain public service companies which do not affect the existing authorized rate of return; restricting the matters that may be determined in the proceeding; allowing modification of the determination of the proceeding; generally dealing with this new procedure and its effect on other proceedings; and extending the time period which proposed new rates may be suspended by the Public Service Commission.