

COMMISSION FROM MODIFYING AFTER A HEARING THE RATE STRUCTURE, LOWERING THE AUTHORIZED FAIR RATE OF RETURN, OR MODIFYING THE ACCOUNTING APPROACH TO ANY ITEM PERTAINING TO REVENUES, EXPENSES OR RATE EASE, FOLLOWING ENTRY OF AN ORDER PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, AND WITHIN THE REMAINING PERIOD OF SUSPENSION AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 70(B) OF THIS ARTICLE.

(C) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT APPLY TO ANY PROPOSED NEW RATE FILED LESS THAN ONE YEAR FOLLOWING THE DATE OF FILING OF A PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED NEW RATE UNDER THIS SECTION.

(D) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT APPLY TO ANY PROPOSED NEW RATE FILED WITH A REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY RATES PURSUANT TO SECTION 71 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(E) IF ANY PROPOSED NEW RATE FILED UNDER THIS SECTION IS STILL PENDING, THE COMPANY MAY NOT FILE A PROPOSED NEW RATE UNDER THIS SECTION OR ANY OTHER SECTION. IF ANY NEW RATE FILED UNDER THIS SECTION HAS BEEN IN EFFECT LESS THAN 90 DAYS, THE COMPANY MAY NOT FILE ANY PROPOSED NEW RATE UNDER ANY SECTION. THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT PRECLUDE A COMPANY FROM FILING A PROPOSED NEW RATE FOR A NEW SERVICE IF THE PROPOSAL DOES NOT AFFECT THE AUTHORIZED RATE OF RETURN.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 70(b) of Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1975 Replacement Volume and 1976 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law

70.

(b) The Commission shall promptly institute proceedings as to the justice and reasonableness of the rate suspended. The suspension may be initially for a period of not more than [120] 150 days beyond the time when the rates would otherwise go into effect; and if the Commission finds that the proceedings cannot be completed within the period of the initial suspension, it may extend the suspension for an additional thirty days. After the expiration of [120] 150 days or [150] 180 days, as the case may be, if no final order has been entered by the Commission, the new rate or change in rate PROPOSED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY shall go into effect, subject to subsection (c) of this section.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1977.

Approved May 26, 1977.