

~~hearing examiner shall conduct the hearing and any other proceeding that he may deem necessary and prepare and file with the Commission a proposed order, including findings of fact, which shall become final unless appealed as provided in paragraph (c). The proposed order shall be served on all parties to the proceeding simultaneously with its being filed with the Commission.~~

~~(c) Orders of a panel constituted under subparagraph (a) shall be final. A proposed order of a hearing examiner shall become final unless, within 30 days of the filing of that order with the Commission, an appeal is noted with the Commission by any party to the proceeding. Following the noting of an appeal, the Commission promptly shall consider the matter on the record before the hearing examiner, conduct any further proceedings (including the filing of briefs and the holding of oral argument) it deems necessary and, thereafter, issue a final order in the matter.]~~

SECTION 2 1. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Sections 5 20 and 16(b) of Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1975 Replacement Volume and 1976 Supplement) be and they are hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law

5.

~~The Commission consists of [five] THREE REGULAR commissioners, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, one of whom shall be the chairman. The Commission shall be broadly representative of the public interest, and shall be composed of persons with diverse training or experience. Each commissioner upon taking office shall be or promptly become a resident and registered voter of Maryland and shall remain such during his term of office. [Three of the commissioners shall serve full time. The remaining two commissioners need not be full time.] THE REGULAR COMMISSIONERS SHALL SERVE FULL TIME. The office of chairman shall be filled initially, at the expiration of each term, and upon an earlier vacancy in the office, by a person nominated as such by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Commissioners shall be eligible for reappointment. A MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM, BUT FOR PURPOSES OF A FORMAL DOCKETED PROCEEDINGS A QUORUM MAY CONSIST OF ANY COMBINATION OF COMMISSIONERS, FULL TIME OR NON FULL TIME, OR MAY CONSIST OF TWO COMMISSIONERS, FULL TIME OR NON FULL TIME, AND A HEARING EXAMINER.~~

20.

(a) The Commission shall conduct its proceedings