

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law
 Section 54D
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1975 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law
 Section 54F
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1975 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law

54.

The Commission may when it deems necessary [allow any gas or electric company to establish a sliding scale for the automatic adjustment of charges only for the 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 nongenerating 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 §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]. AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 54D AND SECTION 54F OF THIS ARTICLE, PERMIT A GAS OR ELECTRIC UTILITY TO ESTABLISH A SLIDING SCALE FOR THE ADJUSTMENT OF ITS FUEL COSTS, COSTS OF PURCHASED POWER, OR COSTS OF PURCHASED GAS.

54D.

(A) Any gas or electric ~~company~~ UTILITY which directly passes on to its customers any change in its fuel costs ~~OR~~ COSTS OF PURCHASED POWER OR COSTS OF PURCHASED GAS is required each month to verify and justify the adjusted [fuel] costs to the Commission. The Commission shall conduct a public EVIDENTIARY hearing [in the service area affected] no less frequently than once every six months on these changes. The Commission shall order a ~~company~~ UTILITY to charge off and amortize, by means of a temporary decrease of rates any charges it finds were unjustified [by determining that the company has improperly calculated the