

(b) ~~The People's Counsel AND THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL shall administer and operate the Office of People's Counsel.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding the provisions of § 2-102 of the Public Utility Companies Article, the term of office of each commissioner of the Public Service Commission serving on the effective date of this Act shall terminate at the end of ~~June 30~~ April 9, 2006. The terms of office of each of the commissioners of the Public Service Commission appointed under Section 1 of this Act shall begin on ~~July 1~~ April 10, 2006, and shall expire as follows:

- (1) ~~one~~ the member appointed by the Governor in 2007;
- (2) ~~the one~~ member appointed by the ~~Attorney General~~ Speaker of the House in 2008;
- (3) ~~the one~~ member appointed by the ~~Speaker of the House~~ President of the Senate in 2009;
- (4) the second member appointed by the ~~Governor~~ Speaker of the House in 2010; and
- (5) the second member appointed by the President of the Senate in 2011.

~~SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding the provisions of § 2-202 of the Public Utility Companies Article, the People's Counsel in office on the effective date of this Act shall be removed from office at the end of June 30, 2006.~~

~~SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the functions and activities of the Office of People's Counsel are transferred to the Office of the Attorney General.~~

~~SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That all persons who are classified employees of the Office of People's Counsel before the effective date of this Act and who are transferred to the Office of the Attorney General as part of the transfer of the Office of People's Counsel under this Act shall be transferred without any diminution of their rights, benefits, or employment status, including merit system and retirement status, if any.~~

~~SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in this Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the funding, employees, or property of the Office of People's Counsel.~~

SECTION 7. ~~3.~~ AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has 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, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.