

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law
Section 68
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1980 Replacement Volume and 1983 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law

68.

(a) The Commission shall have the power to determine just and reasonable rates of public service companies, whether as maximum, minimum or maximum and minimum, respectively. The rates so determined shall be fixed by order to be served upon each public service company affected thereby.

(b) The Commission may not authorize telephone company charges to be levied for directory assistance calls made by residential customers upon the first 12 calls made to directory assistance from each residential service per monthly billing cycle. The Commission may not authorize telephone company charges to be levied for directory assistance upon any person or persons who suffer from physical or visual handicaps which preclude their use of telephone directories and it may provide other exemptions which are just and reasonable.

(c) (1) The Commission may not authorize any ~~mandatory~~ telephone company charges based on a measured time period unit rate for local messages.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection does not preclude the Commission from any study or evaluation of mandatory telephone company charges.

(3) IF THE COMMISSION AUTHORIZES ANY TELEPHONE COMPANY TO OFFER TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS THE OPTION OF TELEPHONE CHARGES BASED ON A MEASURED TIME PERIOD UNIT RATE FOR LOCAL MESSAGES, THE COMMISSION SHALL ALSO REQUIRE THE TELEPHONE COMPANY TO OFFER TO RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS:

(I) THE OPTION OF AN UNLIMITED NUMBER AND DURATION OF LOCAL CALLS; AND

(II) THE OPTION OF A SPECIFIC CHARGE PER LOCAL CALL, REGARDLESS OF THE DURATION OF THE LOCAL CALL.

(4) UNTIL JULY DECEMBER 1, 1985 A TELEPHONE COMPANY MAY NOT REQUIRE THE PAYMENT OF AN ORDER PROCESSING CHARGE OR LINE CHANGE CHARGE FOR A RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER'S FIRST CHANGE TO ANY