

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1985.

Approved May 21, 1985.

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CHAPTER 177

(Senate Bill 341)

AN ACT concerning

Public Service Commission - Standards for  
Common Carrier Rates

FOR the purpose of providing that the Commission shall use an operating ratio to determine the reasonableness of common carrier rates.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 78 - Public Service Commission Law  
Section 69(a) and (b)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1980 Replacement Volume and 1984 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

69.

(a) "Just and reasonable rates" means rates which are not in violation of any of the provisions of this article, which fully consider and are consistent with the public good, and which will result in an operating income to the public service company, except COMMON carriers [of inflammables], yielding, after reasonable deduction for depreciation and other necessary and proper expenses and reserves, a reasonable return upon the fair value of the company's property used and useful in rendering service to the public.

(b) In the exercise of its power to prescribe just and reasonable rates FOR COMMON CARRIERS, [and charges for the transportation carriers of flammables by motor vehicle,] and classifications, regulations, and practices relating thereto, the Commission shall give due consideration, among other factors, to the inherent advantages of transportation by such carriers; to the need, in the public interest, of adequate and efficient transportation services by such carriers at the lowest cost consistent with the furnishing of such service; and to the need