

(e) The utility consumer advisory panel shall be composed of 13 public representatives who shall be geographically representative of the utility-consuming public of this State, 7 of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and 6 of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, with the advice and consent of the House of Delegates.

(f) (1) The term of membership is three years, except that of the original appointees, four shall serve one-year terms, four shall serve two-year terms and five shall serve three-year terms as determined by lot within each category. (2) Each member shall serve until his successor is appointed and qualified. An appointment to a vacancy in an unexpired term is limited to the remainder of that term. (3) The members of the panel shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of their duties. (4) The panel shall annually elect a chairman from its members and appoint a secretary. (5) Each member of the panel shall file a financial disclosure statement in accordance with Article 33 § 29-11.

(g) (1) The chairman of the Public Service Commission (or his designee) and the people's counsel shall serve as ex-officio members of the utility consumer advisory panel. They may not vote in the panel's deliberations. (2) An employee or legal representative of a utility company may not be appointed as a member of the panel.

(h) This section may not be construed to authorize any ex parte communication by the panel or any of its members with any commissioner of the Public Service Commission regarding any matter then pending before the Commission.

(i) Subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, the utility consumer advisory panel shall report on its activities to the General Assembly by January 1 of each year.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1988.

Approved May 2, 1988.

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