

becomes final unless a party to the proceeding notes an appeal with the Public Service Commission within a certain time period; specifying that the time period for appeal designated in the proposed order shall be a certain length; ~~defining certain terms; prohibiting telecommunications carriers from knowingly impeding the development of competition in any telecommunications service market; requiring the Commission to adopt regulations implementing a code of conduct for telecommunications carriers; specifying the minimum prohibitions that shall be included in the code of conduct; authorizing telecommunications carriers to show good cause for failure to comply with the code of conduct~~ clarifying the Commission's authority to adopt certain policies and regulations relating to competition in the telecommunications services market; and generally relating to telecommunications carriers and Commission procedures.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Public Utility Companies

Section 3-113

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Volume and 2001 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - Public Utility Companies

Section 8-501 ~~and 8-502~~ to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 5. Telecommunications ~~Carrier Code of Conduct~~ Competition Requirements"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1998 Volume and 2001 Supplement)

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

Article - Public Utility Companies

3-113.

(a) A decision and order of the Commission in a contested proceeding shall:

(1) be based on consideration of the record;

(2) be in writing; [and]

(3) state the grounds for the conclusions of the Commission; AND

(4) IN THE CASE OF A CONTESTED COMPLAINT PROCEEDING BETWEEN TWO PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANIES, BE ISSUED WITHIN 180 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE RECORD.

(b) An order of the Commission shall take effect within a reasonable time that the Commission prescribes, and shall continue in force according to the terms of the order unless vacated, suspended, modified, or superseded by further order of the Commission or by a court of competent jurisdiction.