

[(f)] (G) The owner, operator, or manager of an apartment house, office building, or shopping center:

(1) may not be considered a public service company; and

(2) may use metering equipment only to allocate fairly the costs of gas or electric service among the occupants of the apartment house, office building, or shopping center in accordance with subsection [(d)] (E) of this section.

[(g)] (H) (1) A complaint by an occupant of a dwelling unit or commercial rental unit against an owner, operator, or manager of an apartment house, office building, or shopping center under this section may be filed in the county or municipal corporation where the apartment house, office building, or shopping center is located.

(2) A complaint filed under paragraph (1) of this subsection may be handled by:

(i) the landlord-tenant commission, if one exists, of the county or municipal corporation;

(ii) the consumer protection agency, if one exists, of the county or municipal corporation if there is not a landlord-tenant commission in the county or municipal corporation;

(iii) the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General, if there is not a consumer protection agency in the county or municipal corporation; or

(iv) any other State or local government unit or office designated to handle tenants' complaints.

[(h)] (I) This section does not affect the right of an owner, operator, or manager of an apartment house, office building, or shopping center to redistribute gas or electricity to tenants or occupants.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1998.

Approved April 14, 1998.

CHAPTER 56

(House Bill 285)

AN ACT concerning

Governor's Energy Emergency Powers

FOR the purpose of extending the Governor's authorization to exercise certain powers