

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 54
Finance

(Senator Middleton)

Economic Matters

Public Service Commission - Restrictions After Service

This bill prohibits an individual, for a period of one year after leaving service with the Public Service Commission (PSC) as a commissioner, from receiving financial benefit (that is not otherwise generally available to the public as a customer of a public service company) from (1) a public service company that is subject to PSC jurisdiction or (2) a person that directly or indirectly, or through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with a public service company that is subject to PSC jurisdiction. The bill applies to an individual who serves as a PSC commissioner on or after January 1, 2015.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Until at least two years have passed after leaving service as a commissioner at PSC or as the People's Counsel, an individual may not (1) represent a public service company before PSC; (2) appear before PSC on behalf of a party to a PSC proceeding; or (3) appear before PSC on a matter within PSC jurisdiction. An individual leaving service as the General Counsel to PSC or as a hearing examiner is prohibited from engaging in those activities for one year.

Each spouse, dependent child, parent, brother, or sister of each commissioner, the People's Counsel, the General Counsel, and hearing examiner is prohibited from holding an official relation to or connection with a public service company or from having a pecuniary interest in a public service company as the holder of stock or other securities or otherwise.

Each spouse or dependent child of each other officer or employee of PSC or Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) is likewise prohibited. These individuals are further prohibited from holding an office or position or engaging in a business or avocation that is incompatible with the duties of office or service with PSC or OPC.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 140 (Delegate Davis) – Economic Matters.

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission, State Ethics Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 23, 2015
md/lgc Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 16, 2015
Revised - Updated Information - April 10, 2015

Analysis by: Stephen M. Ross

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510