## **SENATE BILL 430**

EMERGENCY BILL

1lr2001 CF HB 556

By: Senator Kelley

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Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2021

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 16, 2021

CHAPTER

1 AN ACT concerning

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## Public Service Commission - Virtual Public Hearings

- FOR the purpose of authorizing the Public Service Commission to conduct certain hearings relating to certain rate increases virtually; authorizing the Commission to conduct certain public hearings relating to certain certificates of public convenience and necessity virtually in a certain manner; requiring the Commission to provide certain notice of certain proceedings being conducted virtually; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the Public Service Commission and public hearings.
- 10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 11 Article Public Utilities
- 12 Section 3–104 and 7–207(d)
- 13 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 14 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)
- 15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND.
- 16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

## Article – Public Utilities

18 3–104.

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19 (a) (1) The Commission shall institute and conduct proceedings reasonably 20 necessary and proper to the exercise of its powers or the performance of its duties.

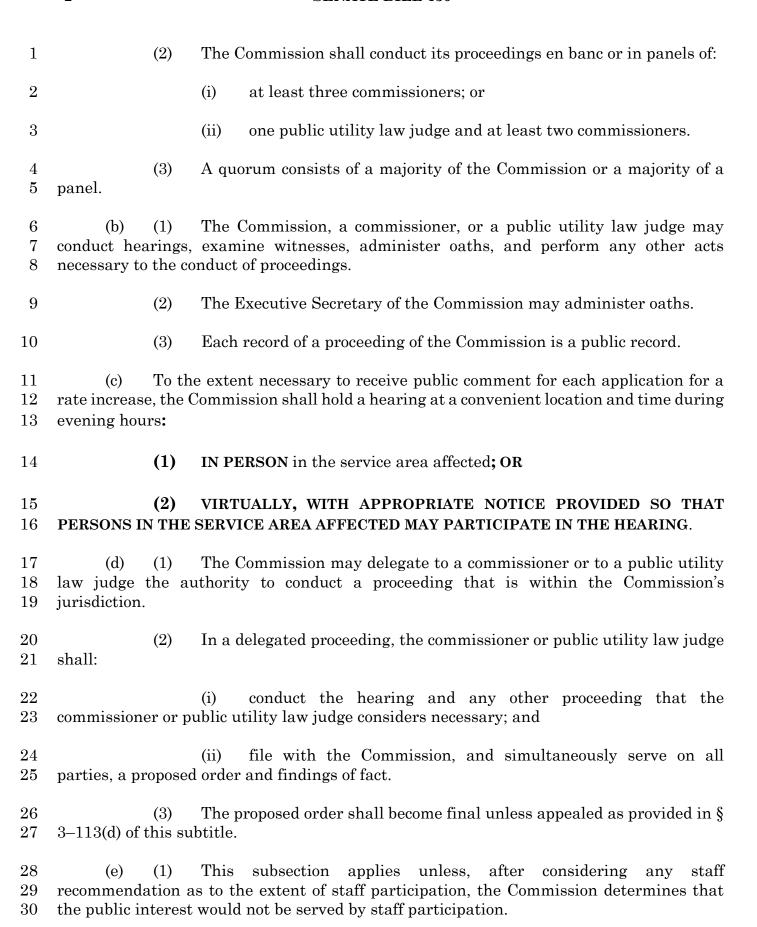
## EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

<u>Underlining</u> indicates amendments to bill.

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.





$\frac{1}{2}$	(2) shall:	In each matter before the Commission, the staff of the Commission
3		(i) analyze the data submitted to the Commission;
4		(ii) prepare a staff position based on that analysis; and
5 6	analysis of the iss	(iii) make an evidentiary presentation setting forth the staff's ues and its recommendations.
7	(3)	In making analyses and recommendations, the staff is:
8		(i) governed by the criteria in § 2–113 of this article; and
9 10	the rights specifie	(ii) a party and has the rights of a party to the proceeding, including d in $\S 3-107$ of this subtitle.
11 12 13 14	(4) The staff shall present direct and redirect cases of its own cross—examine, submit briefs, and engage in oral argument as the staff considers necessary to ensure that the Commission has a complete record on all relevant issues in a particular case.	
15	7–207.	
16 17 18 19 20	(d) (1) <b>(I)</b> The Commission shall provide an opportunity for public comment and hold a public hearing on the application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity in each county and municipal corporation in which any portion of the construction of a generating station, an overhead transmission line designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts, or a qualified generator lead line is proposed to be located.	
21 22 23 24	VIRTUALLY RATE COMPARABLE OF HEARING.	(II) THE COMMISSION MAY HOLD THE PUBLIC HEARING THER THAN IN PERSON IF THE COMMISSION PROVIDES A PPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE
25 26 27 28 29	construction of the	The Commission shall hold the public hearing jointly with the first the county or municipal corporation in which any portion of the generating station, overhead transmission line, or qualified generator ed to be located, unless the governing body declines to participate in the
30 31 32	(3) hearing date, the opportunity for pu	(i) Once in each of the 4 successive weeks immediately before the Commission shall provide weekly notice of the public hearing and an blic comment:

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by advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in

