

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations
Public Service Commission
(DLS Control No. 16-059)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

The regulations make technical changes to provisions on reconnection of gas service and theft of gas service.

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Regulations of COMAR Affected

Public Service Commission:

Service Supplied by Gas Companies: Customer Relations:
COMAR 20.55.04.01-2 and .05

Legal Analysis

Summary of Regulations

The regulations make technical changes to existing provisions on customer relations concerning reconnection of gas service and on theft of service. Regulation .01-2G provides that the Office of External Relations of the Public Service Commission may require a gas utility to reconnect gas service to a customer whose service has been terminated due to nonpayment or to equipment tampering, if (1) the reconnected service is safe; (2) the customer pays two months' estimated service charges prospectively; and (3) the customer either pays any outstanding arrearage or enters into an alternate payment plan that the gas utility agrees to.

Regulation .05G authorizes a gas utility to issue an estimated bill if the customer's meter has been tampered or interfered with, and requires the gas utility to retain all materials used in calculating the estimated bill for a specified period.

Legal Issues

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The commission cites §§ 2-113, 2-121, and 5-101 of Public Utilities Article as statutory authority for the regulations. These provisions provide for the commission's general supervisory and regulatory authority over public services, the commission's authority to adopt regulations, and the commission's power to regulate standards for service by public service companies, respectively.

This authority is correct and complete. The regulations comply with the legislative intent of the law.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The commission advises that the regulations have minimal or no impact on State or local governments. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Impact on Budget

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact

The commission advises that the regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Contact Information

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