

HOUSE BILL 478

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1998 Regular Session
8r1521
CF 8r1692

By: **Delegate Guns**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 1998

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Steam Heating Companies**

3 FOR the purpose of eliminating the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission
4 over steam heating companies; providing that a steam heating company is an
5 "owner" for purposes of certain underground utility provisions; and generally
6 relating to steam heating companies.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Public Utility Companies
9 Section 1-101(p), 4-401, 4-402(a) and (b), 6-202(b), and 12-101(f)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (As enacted by Chapter ____ (S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1998)

12 BY repealing
13 Article - Public Utility Companies
14 Section 1-101(w)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (As enacted by Chapter ____ (S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1998)

17 BY renumbering
18 Article - Public Utility Companies
19 Section 1-101(x) through (gg), respectively
20 to be Section 1-101(w) through (ff), respectively
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (As enacted by Chapter ____ (S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1998)

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

1

Article - Public Utility Companies

2 1-101.

3 (p) "Public service company" means a common carrier company, electric
4 company, gas company, sewage disposal company, [steam heating company,]
5 telegraph company, telephone company, water company, or any combination of public
6 service companies.

7 [(w) "Steam heating company" means a public service company that
8 manufactures, sells, or distributes steam for use, sale, or distribution.]

9 4-401.

10 As it considers necessary, and in accordance with the requirements of §§ 4-402
11 and 4-403 of this subtitle, the Commission may allow a gas company[, OR electric
12 company[, or steam heating company] to establish a sliding scale to adjust costs of its
13 fuel, purchased power, or purchased gas.

14 4-402.

15 (a) (1) This section applies to:

16 (i) the electric fuel rate adjustment clause of each electric company
17 that is not subject to § 4-403 of this subtitle;

18 (ii) [the fuel rate adjustment clause of a steam heating company;

19 (iii)] purchased power adjustment clauses; and

20 [(iv)] (III) purchased gas adjustment clauses.

21 (2) This section does not apply to a small rural electric cooperative.

22 (b) A [steam heating company,] gas company[, or electric company that
23 directly passes on to its customers changes in fuel costs, costs of purchased power, or
24 costs of purchased gas shall verify and justify the adjusted costs to the Commission
25 each month.

26 6-202.

27 (b) Two public service companies are of the same class, if they are both:

28 (1) common carrier companies;

29 (2) electric companies;

30 (3) gas companies;

31 (4) gas and electric companies;

- 1 (5) sewage disposal companies;
2 (6) [steam heating companies;
3 (7)] telegraph companies;
4 [(8)] (7) telephone companies; or
5 [(9)] (8) water companies.

6 12-101.

- 7 (f) (1) "Owner" means a person that:
8 (i) owns or operates an underground facility; and
9 (ii) has the right to bury an underground facility.
10 (2) "Owner" includes:
11 (i) a public utility;
12 (ii) a telecommunications corporation;
13 (iii) a cable television corporation;
14 (iv) a political subdivision;
15 (v) a municipal corporation;
16 (VI) A STEAM HEATING COMPANY; and
17 [(vi)] (VII) an authority.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 1-101(x)
19 through (gg), respectively, of Article - Public Utility Companies of the Annotated Code
20 of Maryland (as enacted by Chapter _____ (S.B. 1) of the Acts of the General
21 Assembly of 1998) be renumbered to be Section(s) 1-101(w) through (ff), respectively.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 1998.