

SENATE BILL 49

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2001 Regular Session
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(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chairman, Finance Committee (Departmental - Public Service
Commission)**

Requested: October 26, 2000

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2001

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission - Liquefied Petroleum Gas**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing certain provisions of law pertaining solely to public
4 service companies providing liquefied petroleum gas pursuant to franchises that
5 existed on or before a certain date; clarifying that owners of gas service
6 installations must comply with certain metering requirements; and generally
7 relating to the Commission's jurisdiction over liquefied petroleum gas.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

9 Article - Public Utility Companies

10 Section 7-301

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (1998 Volume and 2000 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article - Public Utility Companies

15 Section 11-102

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (1998 Volume and 2000 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

19 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article - Public Utility Companies**

21 7-301.

22 (a) A person may not furnish or put in use for revenue billing purposes a gas
23 meter or electric meter unless the Commission has authorized the meter's use.

24 (b) (1) Each gas company and electric company shall maintain suitable
25 equipment, approved by the Commission, for testing the accuracy of a gas meter or
26 electric meter furnished by the company for use by its customers.

1 (2) The gas company or electric company shall test a customer's meter
2 with the equipment in accordance with § 7-302 of this subtitle.

3 (c) (1) This subsection applies to:

4 (i) a new residential multiple occupancy building;

5 (ii) a new shopping center; or

6 (iii) a new housing unit that is constructed, managed, operated,
7 developed, or subsidized by a local housing authority established under Article 44A of
8 the Code.

9 (2) The service restrictions imposed under this subsection do not apply to
10 central hot water.

11 (3) The Commission may not authorize a gas company or electric
12 company to service an occupancy unit or shopping center unit subject to this
13 subsection unless the building or shopping center has individual metered service or
14 submetering as provided under § 7-303 or § 7-304 of this subtitle for each
15 individually leased or owned occupancy unit or shopping center unit.

16 (4) In accordance with its regulations, the Commission may authorize a
17 gas company or electric company to provide service for central heating or cooling
18 systems, or a combination of those systems, to an occupancy unit or shopping center
19 unit subject to this subsection if the Commission is satisfied that the service will
20 result in a substantial net saving of energy over the energy saving that would result
21 from individual metering or submetering as provided under § 7-303 or § 7-304 of this
22 subtitle.

23 (d) The owner, operator, or manager of a residential multiple occupancy
24 building or shopping center subject to this section may not impose a utility cost on an
25 occupancy unit or shopping center unit, except for charges that:

26 (1) the Commission authorizes the gas company or electric company to
27 impose; and

28 (2) the gas company or electric company actually imposes on the owner,
29 operator, or manager.

30 11-102.

31 (a) [This section does not limit the jurisdiction of the Commission over a
32 public service company that provides liquefied petroleum gas service under
33 franchises that existed on or before July 1, 1980.

34 (b)] The Commission shall adopt and enforce safety standards for gas service
35 installations at locations where service is provided to 10 or more customers or 10 or
36 more separate residential dwelling units by pipes from a central liquefied petroleum
37 gas storage tank.

1 [(c)] (B) (1) The owner of a facility at a location subject to subsection [(b)]
2 (A) of this section or the owner of the liquefied petroleum gas furnished shall comply
3 with the safety standards of service.

4 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, other sections
5 of this article do not apply to an owner subject to this section.

6 (3) The Commission may apply Title 12, Subtitle 1 and §§ 2-117(a),
7 5-304, 7-301, and 13-203 of this article to an owner subject to this section.

8 [(d)] (C) When service begins, a person who furnishes gas service by pipes
9 from a central liquefied petroleum gas storage tank to 10 or more customers or 10 or
10 more separate residential dwelling units shall notify the Commission in writing
11 about:

12 (1) the location of each installation;

13 (2) the number of customers or dwelling units furnished service at each
14 location; and

15 (3) the name and address of the office responsible for the service.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
17 effect October 1, 2001.