

BY: Appropriations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 620

(Third Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “- Public Utility Regulation” and substitute “and Office of the People's Counsel”; in the same line strike “and Filing Fees”; in line 3, strike “Utility Regulation” and substitute “Service Commission and Office of the People’s Counsel”; strike beginning with “providing” in line 3 down through “fees” in line 17 and substitute “requiring the Fund to be administered by the Commission; providing that the Fund is a nonlapsing fund; requiring the Treasurer to hold and the Comptroller to account for the Fund; providing that the Fund consist of assessments paid by public service companies; requiring the People's Counsel to estimate certain costs at a certain time; requiring the Treasurer to invest the Fund in the same manner as other State funds; requiring that investments earnings be retained to the credit of the Fund; requiring expenditures from the Fund be made in accordance with the State budget; authorizing the Fund to receive funds from any other source; requiring that moneys in the Fund be used to fund the Commission and the Office of the People's Counsel; repealing the requirement that costs and expenses of the Commission and Office of the People's Counsel be paid from the State Treasury; repealing the requirement that the State Treasury be reimbursed from the assessments paid by public service companies; requiring public service companies to make payment to the Public Service Commission and Office of the People's Counsel Fund; and generally relating to the Public Service Commission and Office of the People's Counsel Fund”; in line 20, strike “2-110(b) and (c)” and substitute “2-110”; and in line 25, strike “and 2-123”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, after line 6 insert:

“(a) In this section, “public service company” includes an electricity supplier and a gas supplier as those terms are defined in § 1-101 of this article.”;

strike in their entirety lines 13 through 21, inclusive; in line 22, after “Commission” insert “AND”

(Over)

THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL"; in line 23, strike "Commission's"; in the same line, after "expenses" insert "OF THE COMMISSION AND THE OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL"; in line 24, strike "its" and substitute "THE OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL, AND THE"; in line 25, after "personnel" insert "OF THE COMMISSION AND THE OFFICE"; in line 28, after "Commission" insert "AND THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL"; in lines 29 and 30, strike "OF THE COMMISSION"; in line 31, strike "OF THE COMMISSION"; in lines 32 and 33, in each instance, strike the bracket; and strike beginning with "EXPENSES" in line 33 down through "ARTICLE" in line 35.

On page 3, strike in their entirety lines 1 through 11, inclusive; in lines 27 and 28, strike "; or

(ii)" and substitute "OR";

in line 29, after "April" insert "; AND

(II) SHALL MAKE PAYMENT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 2-110.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE";

and strike beginning with "AND" in line 33 down through "COUNSEL" in line 35.

On page 4, strike beginning with "AND" in line 6 down through "COUNSEL" in line 8; in line 9, in each instance, strike the bracket; in lines 9 and 10, strike "§§ 2-111(A) AND 2-123"; in lines 15 and 16, in each instance, strike the bracket; and in line 15, strike "AN"; after line 26 insert:

"(d) (1) Within 30 days after the Commission issues a bill under subsection (c) of this section, the party billed may request a hearing as to the amount of the bill.

(2) Any amount of a bill that is not paid within 30 days after the date of determination on a hearing or, if a hearing is not requested, on the date when payment is due, shall bear annual interest at a rate, not less than 6%, that the Commission sets by regulation."

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On pages 4 through 7, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 28 on page 4 through line 8 on page 7, inclusive, and substitute:

“(A) IN THIS SECTION, “FUND” MEANS THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL FUND.

(B) THERE IS A PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL FUND.

(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.

(D) (1) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

(2) THE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND SEPARATELY AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.

(E) THE FUND CONSISTS OF ASSESSMENTS MADE TO THE FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-110 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(F) (1) THE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.

(2) ANY INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE RETAINED TO THE CREDIT OF THE FUND.

(G) EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.

(H) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT THE FUND FROM RECEIVING FUNDS FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE.

(I) THE FUND SHALL BE USED ONLY TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE COMMISSION AND THE OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL AND FOR THE PURPOSES AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS ARTICLE.”.

On page 7, in line 10, strike "June" and substitute "October".