
By: **Senators Della, Conway, Gladden, Hughes, Jones, and McFadden**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Finance, February 23, 2006

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2006

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Utility Companies - Steam Heating Companies**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Public Service Commission to regulate steam
4 heating companies; requiring a steam heating company to verify and justify
5 certain costs; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the authority of
6 the Public Service Commission to regulate steam heating companies.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article - Public Utility Companies
9 Section 1-101(gg) through (pp), respectively
10 to be Section 1-101(hh) through (qq), respectively
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1998 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article - Public Utility Companies
15 Section 1-101(w), 4-401, 4-402(a) and (b), and 6-202(b)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1998 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

18 BY adding to

19 Article - Public Utility Companies
20 Section 1-101(gg)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (1998 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
2 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 1-101(gg) through (pp), respectively, of Article - Public
3 Utility Companies of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s)
4 1-101(hh) through (qq), respectively.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
6 read as follows:

7 **Article - Public Utility Companies**

8 1-101.

9 (w) "Public service company" means a common carrier company, electric
10 company, gas company, sewage disposal company, STEAM HEATING COMPANY,
11 telegraph company, telephone company, water company, or any combination of public
12 service companies.

13 (GG) "STEAM HEATING COMPANY" MEANS A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY THAT
14 MANUFACTURES, SELLS, OR DISTRIBUTES STEAM FOR USE, SALE, OR DISTRIBUTION.
15 4-401.

16 As it considers necessary, and in accordance with the requirements of § 4-402 of
17 this subtitle, the Commission may allow a gas company, STEAM HEATING COMPANY,
18 or electric company to establish a sliding scale to adjust costs of its fuel, purchased
19 power, or purchased gas.

20 4-402.

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

22 (i) electric fuel rate adjustment clauses;

23 (II) STEAM HEATING FUEL RATE ADJUSTMENT CLAUSES;

24 [(ii)] (III) purchased power adjustment clauses; and

25 [(iii)] (IV) purchased gas adjustment clauses.

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

27 (b) A STEAM HEATING COMPANY, gas company, or electric company that
28 directly passes on to its customers changes in fuel costs, costs of purchased power, or
29 costs of purchased gas shall verify and justify the adjusted costs to the Commission
30 each month.

31 6-202.

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

33 (1) common carrier companies;

- 1 (2) electric companies;
- 2 (3) gas companies;
- 3 (4) gas and electric companies;
- 4 (5) sewage disposal companies;
- 5 (6) STEAM HEATING COMPANIES;
- 6 [(6)] (7) telegraph companies;
- 7 [(7)] (8) telephone companies; or
- 8 [(8)] (9) water companies.

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2006.