

# SENATE BILL 162

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6lr1630  
CF HB 75

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By: **Senator Astle**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2016

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Gas Companies – Infrastructure Replacement Projects – Amendment to a Plan**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the number of days during which the Public Service  
4 Commission is required to take a certain final action after a gas company files an  
5 amendment to an approved plan to invest in eligible infrastructure replacement  
6 projects; and generally relating to infrastructure replacement projects.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Public Utilities  
9 Section 4–210(e)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

### Article – Public Utilities

14 4–210.

16 (e) (1) Within 180 days after a gas company files a plan, the Commission:

17 (i) may hold a public hearing on the plan; and

18 (ii) shall take a final action to approve or deny the plan.

19 (2) Within [120] **150** days after a gas company files an amendment to an  
20 approved plan, the Commission shall take final action to approve or deny the amendment.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (3)     The Commission may approve a plan if it finds that the investments  
2 and estimated costs of eligible infrastructure replacement projects are:

3                   (i)     reasonable and prudent; and

4                   (ii)    designed to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability  
5 over the short term and long term.

6                   (4)    (i)     The Commission shall approve the cost–recovery schedule  
7 associated with the plan at the same time that it approves the plan.

8                   (ii)    Costs recovered under the schedule approved in subparagraph (i)  
9 of this paragraph may relate only to the projects within the plan approved by the  
10 Commission.

11                  (5)     The Commission may not consider a revenue requirement or  
12 rate–making issue that is not related to the plan when reviewing a plan for approval or  
13 denial unless the plan is filed in conjunction with a base rate case.

14                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
15 1, 2016.