

Chapter 355

(Senate Bill 162)

AN ACT concerning

Gas Companies – Infrastructure Replacement Projects – Amendment to a Plan

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

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

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

Article – Public Utilities

4–210.

- (e) (1) Within 180 days after a gas company files a plan, the Commission:
- (i) may hold a public hearing on the plan; and
 - (ii) shall take a final action to approve or deny the plan.

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

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

- (i) reasonable and prudent; and
- (ii) designed to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability over the short term and long term.

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2016.