

# HOUSE BILL 228

C5

2lr1547  
CF SB 131

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By: **Delegate Crosby**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2022

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 15, 2022

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Service Commission – Rate Suspension Proceedings**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing the Public Service Commission to extend rate suspension~~  
4 ~~proceedings for a certain number of days if the filing is for an alternative form of~~  
5 ~~ratemaking for an electric company, gas company, electric and gas company, or~~  
6 ~~telephone company~~ altering the number of days for which the Public Service  
7 Commission may initially suspend a public service company’s proposed rate; altering  
8 the number of days for which and the conditions under which the Commission may  
9 extend a rate suspension proceeding; and generally relating to the rate suspension  
10 proceedings of the Public Service Commission.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
12 Article – Public Utilities  
13 Section 4–204(a) and (b)(1)  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Public Utilities  
18 Section 4–204(b)(2)  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



## 1 Article – Public Utilities

2 4–204.

3 (a) (1) The Commission may suspend, effective immediately and without  
4 formal proceedings, any new rate or change in rate proposed by a public service company.5 (2) Unless suspended by the Commission, and subject to § 4–203 of this  
6 subtitle, a new rate or change in rate proposed by a public service company takes effect on  
7 the date specified in the rate application.8 (3) The Commission shall furnish to the public service company proposing  
9 a rate a written statement of the reasons for the suspension.10 (b) (1) The Commission promptly shall institute proceedings to consider  
11 whether the suspended rate is a just and reasonable rate.

12 (2) The Commission may:

13 (i) suspend the rate initially for not more than ~~150~~ 180 days after  
14 the proposed effective date; and15 (ii) ~~1. extend the suspension for an additional 30 days if the~~  
16 ~~Commission finds that the proceedings cannot be completed within the initial suspension~~  
17 ~~period; OR~~18 ~~2. EXTEND THE PROCEEDINGS SUSPENSION FOR UP TO~~  
19 ~~AN ADDITIONAL 120 90 DAYS IF THE FILING IS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF~~  
20 ~~RATEMAKING FOR AN ELECTRIC COMPANY, A GAS COMPANY, AN ELECTRIC AND GAS~~  
21 ~~COMPANY, OR A TELEPHONE COMPANY A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY.~~22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 October 1, 2022.