AN ACT
RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RATE INCREASE MEETINGS

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Potter, Newberry, Cortvriend, Kislak, McEntee, Knight, Hull, Stewart, and McNamara
Date Introduced: February 10, 2023
Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 39-1-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1 entitled "Public Utilities Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:


(a) The commission shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations governing the procedure to be followed in any matter that may come before it for a hearing, and in the hearing the commission shall not be bound by technical rules of evidence. The commission shall sit as an impartial, independent body, and is charged with the duty of rendering independent decisions affecting the public interest and private rights based upon the law and upon the evidence presented before it by the division and by the parties in interest. The presence of one commissioner shall constitute a quorum at all hearings, provided that the concurrence of a majority of the commission shall be required for the rendering of a decision.

(b) At least one public hearing conducted by the commission, during which public comment will be elicited related to a utility rate increase, shall be held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday at or after 5:30 pm. This requirement does not prohibit the commission from conducting additional hearings to elicit public comment in a matter during regular business hours.
SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
AN ACT
RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RATE INCREASE MEETINGS

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1 This act would require public hearings of the commission related to utility rate increases
2 be conducted on Monday through Thursday after 5:30 pm.
3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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