

2023 -- H 5490

LC000117

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023

A N A C T

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:

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

3 **39-1-11. Proceedings before commission.**

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

12 (b) Any public hearing conducted by the commission related to utility rate increases shall
13 only be held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday at or after 5:30 pm.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RATE INCREASE MEETINGS

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

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