
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 388

Session of
1979

INTRODUCED BY BROWN, SEVENTY AND COHEN, FEBRUARY 20, 1979

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 21, 1979

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, prescribing further criteria and
3 standards for the setting of rates; and permitting the
4 implementation of lifeline rates.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 1301 of Title 66, act of November 25,
8 1970 (P.L.707, No.230), known as the Pennsylvania Consolidated
9 Statutes, added July 1, 1978 (No.116), is amended to read:

10 § 1301. Rates to be just and reasonable.

11 (a) Every rate made, demanded, or received by any public
12 utility, or by any two or more public utilities jointly, shall
13 be just and reasonable, and in conformity with regulations or
14 orders of the commission. Only public utility service being
15 furnished or rendered by a municipal corporation, or by the
16 operating agencies of any municipal corporation, beyond its
17 corporate limits, shall be subject to regulation and control by
18 the commission as to rates, with the same force, and in like
19 manner, as if such service were rendered by a public utility.

1 (b) In determining whether rates are just and reasonable the
2 commission shall consider the cost of service, value of service,
3 conservation of natural resources used in the production or
4 generation of utility service, and the protection and promotion
5 of the public health, safety and welfare.

6 (c) The commission shall, after notice and hearing, require
7 each gas, electric or steam heat utility to file a tariff which
8 includes a lifeline rate designed to promote the conservation of
9 natural resources; such lifeline rate shall be a reduced rate
10 applicable to the initial block of a rate design or rate
11 structure.

12 (d) For the purposes of an electric lifeline the first 500
13 kilowatt hours each month or 800 kilowatt hours for a two-month
14 period shall be considered the lifeline rate, and the rates
15 shall be frozen at the rates currently in effect at the
16 effective date of this act.

17 (e) Subsection (d) shall apply only to residential customers
18 65 years of age or older or to those households in which any
19 person 65 years of age or older resides, and whose household
20 income is less than \$3,200 per year. For the purposes of this
21 section household income shall not include social security,
22 disability pension, or pension of any kind.

23 Section 2. The authority of the commission with regard to
24 lifeline rates as provided in section 1301(c) shall expire one
25 year from the effective date of this act, unless extended by act
26 of the General Assembly.

27 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.