

sel," be and it is hereby repealed and that new Section 15B be and it is hereby enacted in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the section repealed, to read as follows:

15B.

*The people's counsel may hire from time to time, as needed, in connection with specific proceedings before the Commission, experts in the utility regulation field including but not limited to economists, cost of capital experts, rate design experts, and, to the extent Commission personnel cannot be utilized, accountants, engineers, and transportation specialists. An aggregate sum of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) for compensation and/or expenses of these experts shall be provided in the budget, and if not used for this purpose, shall revert to the Treasury; nothing contained herein precludes the people's counsel from applying to the Board of Public Works for additional funds to be allotted from the General Emergency Fund for the purposes expressed herein if the budgetary appropriation is insufficient to meet the people's counsel's expenses in representing the people of Maryland.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1969.*

Approved April 23, 1969.

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## CHAPTER 247

(House Bill 34)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 88(d) of Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Supplement), title "Public Service Commission Law," subtitle "Procedure Before Commission," amending the law concerning the annual filing fee of certain public service companies in order to change the formula for computing the amount thereof.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 88(d) of Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1968 Supplement), title "Public Service Commission Law," subtitle "Procedure Before Commission," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:*

88.

(d) In addition to all other fees and charges specified in this section or elsewhere in this article, there is hereby imposed upon every public service company, whose gross receipts amount to \$10,000 or more, an annual filing fee in an amount equal to the product of [.0008] .0009 multiplied by the company's annual gross receipts for the preceding year. The fee shall be payable on or before April 1 in any year, with the computation being based upon the gross receipts for the preceding calendar year. "Gross receipts" shall apply only to the revenues from such types of utility business and operations as are within the regulatory jurisdiction of the Com-