

CHAPTER 234

(Senate Bill 660)

AN ACT to repeal Section 88 of Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Public Service Commission Law," subtitle "Procedure Before Commission," and to enact new Section 88 [to said article, title and subtitle,] in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the section so repealed, repealing the annual filing fee payable by public service companies, providing for a new method of financing the operations of the Public Service Commission, requiring all public service companies to contribute a specified proportion of the expenses of such operations and providing for the allocation and determination of such proportions and the method of assessing and collecting the same, and relating generally to the financing of Public Service Commission operations.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 88 of Article 78 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume and 1972 Supplement), title "Public Service Commission Law," subtitle "Procedure Before Commission," be and it is hereby repealed and that new Section 88 be and it is hereby enacted in lieu thereof [to said article, title, and subtitle,] to stand in the place of the section so repealed, and to read as follows:

88.

(a) The commission shall charge and collect the following fees; For copies of papers and records not required to be certified or otherwise authenticated by the Commission, ten cents for each folio; for certified copies of official documents and orders filed in its office, fifteen cents for each folio, and one dollar for every certificate under seal affixed thereto; for certifying a copy of any report made by any corporation to the Commission, two dollars; for each certified copy of the annual report of the Commission, one dollar and fifty cents; for certified copies of all evidence and proceedings taken before the Commission, twenty cents for each folio.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to typewritten transcripts of evidence at hearings before the Commission by any of the Commission's stenographers, but the Commission shall regulate by rule the fee chargeable by such stenographers for copies of such transcripts.

(c) No fee shall be charged or collected for copies of papers, records or official documents furnished to public officers for use in their official capacity, or for the annual reports of the Commission in the ordinary course of distribution. All fees charged and collected by the Commission shall belong to the State of Maryland and shall be paid monthly accompanied by a detailed statement thereof into the treasury of the State, and become part of the general funds of the State.

(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 .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 Commission. The proceeds of the filing fees shall be accounted for monthly into the general funds of the State treasury.