

2018 -- H 7561

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Introduced By: Representatives Marshall, Edwards, O'Brien, Casey, and Johnston

Date Introduced: February 09, 2018

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 39-1-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1 entitled "Public
2 Utilities Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **39-1-4. Composition of commission -- Terms -- Vacancies.**

4 (a) The public utilities commission shall consist of ~~three (3)~~ five (5) electors selected with
5 regard to their qualifications and experience in law and government, energy matters, economics
6 and finance, engineering and accounting, ~~and~~ Three (3) commissioners shall be appointed by the
7 governor with the advice and consent of the senate. One commissioner shall be appointed by the
8 speaker of the house of representatives. One commissioner shall be appointed by the president of
9 the senate. The term of each commissioner shall be six (6) years. The director of administration,
10 with the approval of the governor, shall allocate the position of each commissioner to one of the
11 grades established by the pay plan for unclassified employees.

12 (b) During the month prior to the expiration of the term of a commissioner, ~~the governor,~~
13 the office of commissioner shall be filled in like manner by the appointing authority pursuant to
14 the provisions of subsection (a) of this section with the advice and consent of the senate shall
15 appoint a commissioner to succeed the commissioner whose term will then next expire, to serve
16 for a term of six (6) years commencing on the first day of March then next following, and until
17 his or her successor is appointed and qualified. A commissioner shall be eligible to succeed him
18 or herself. Upon the expiration of the term of the chairperson, the governor may designate any
19 commissioner as chairperson.

1 (c) A vacancy in the office of a commissioner, other than by expiration, shall be filled in
2 like manner as an original appointment, but only for the unexpired portion of the term. If a
3 vacancy occurs when the senate is not in session, the governor shall appoint a person to fill the
4 vacancy, but only until the senate shall next convene and give its advice and consent to a new
5 appointment.

6 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 - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

1 This act would increase the number of commissioners appointed to the PUC from three
2 (3) to five (5), and would provide that one of the additional appointments is made by the speaker
3 of the house, and the other appointment is made by the president of the senate.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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