

2013 -- H 6107

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LC02521  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION  
-- TERMS -- VACANCIES

Introduced By: Representatives Handy, E Coderre, Slater, Valencia, and Ucci

Date Introduced: May 14, 2013

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.~~ Composition of  
4 commission -- Terms -- Vacancies -- Membership and diversity. -- (a) The public utilities  
5 commission shall consist of ~~three (3)~~ five (5) electors selected with regard to their qualifications  
6 and experience in law and government, energy matters, economics and finance, engineering ~~and,~~  
7 accounting, and consumer income, ~~and~~ appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of  
8 the senate. The governor shall strive to achieve a diverse membership in the board by considering  
9 for selection electors that have experience working on behalf of the interests of low and middle  
10 income consumers, and give due consideration to recommendations and input from organizations  
11 that advocate for low income consumers and groups that advocate for middle income consumers.

12 The term of each commissioner shall be six (6) years. The director of administration, with the  
13 approval of the governor, shall allocate the position of each commissioner to one of the grades  
14 established by the pay plan for unclassified employees.

15 (b) During the month prior to the expiration of the term of a commissioner, the governor,  
16 with the advice and consent of the senate shall appoint a commissioner to succeed the  
17 commissioner whose term will then next expire, to serve for a term of six (6) years commencing  
18 on the first day of March then next following, and until his or her successor is appointed and

1 qualified. A commissioner shall be eligible to succeed him or herself. Upon the expiration of the  
2 term of the chairperson, the governor may designate any commissioner as chairperson.

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

8 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 -- COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION  
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1           This act would increase the membership of the public utilities commission from three (3)  
2 members to five (5) members and further require the governor to strive to achieve a diverse  
3 membership in the board by considering for selection electors that have experience working on  
4 behalf of the interests of low and middle income consumers and give due consideration to  
5 recommendations and input from organizations that advocate for low income consumers and  
6 groups that advocate for middle income consumers.

7           This act would take effect upon passage.

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