

2015 -- H 5705

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Introduced By: Representative Blake Anthony Filippi

Date Introduced: February 26, 2015

Referred To: House Corporations

(by request)

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

10           (b) During the month prior to the expiration of the term of a commissioner, the governor,  
11 with the advice and consent of the senate shall appoint a commissioner to succeed the  
12 commissioner whose term will then next expire, to serve for a term of six (6) years commencing  
13 on the first day of March then next following, and until his or her successor is appointed and  
14 qualified. A commissioner shall be eligible to succeed him or herself. Upon the expiration of the  
15 term of the chairperson, the governor may designate any commissioner as chairperson.

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

1 appointment.

2 (d) In matters involving common carriers of persons and/or property operating upon  
3 water between termini within this state on a year-round basis, the matter or petition shall be heard  
4 by two (2) commissioners and a designee of the city or town council of the municipality most  
5 dependent upon the service provided by said common carrier. The make-up of the commission in  
6 such matters will be achieved by the replacement of one commissioner on a rotating basis  
7 commencing with the commissioner who has the least amount of years of service.

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 - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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1           This act would require that matters or petitions involving common carriers of persons  
2 and/or property upon water between termini within this state on a year-round basis be heard by  
3 two (2) commissioners and the designee of the city or town council most dependent upon the  
4 service provided.

5           This act would take effect upon passage.

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