

HB0030/723190/1

BY: Economic Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 30
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike in their entirety lines 2 and 3 and substitute:

**“Office of People’s Counsel – Alterations
(Office of People’s Counsel Environmental Reform Act)”**;

and in line 4, after the first “of” insert “altering the maximum amount that may be charged to a public service company under certain provisions of law for a State fiscal year; requiring the Office of People’s Counsel to hire a certain minimum number of assistant people’s counsel who will focus on environmental issues; authorizing the Office of People’s Counsel to retain or hire experts in the field of climate change; requiring the Office of People’s Counsel to consider certain interests in determining whether a certain matter affects the interests of residential and noncommercial users;”.

On pages 1 and 2, strike beginning with “establishing” in line 4 on page 1 down through “circumstances;” in line 7 on page 2.

On page 2, in lines 8, 12, and 13, in each instance, strike “Climate” and substitute “People’s”; strike beginning with “altering” in line 8 down through “member;” in line 10; in line 13, strike “conforming and”; strike in their entirety lines 15 through 22, inclusive; in line 35, strike “2–110” and substitute “2–110(c)(12)”; and strike beginning with “2–110.1” in line 35 down through “13–204” in line 36 and substitute “2–203(a) and (f), and 2–204(a)”.

On pages 2 and 3, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 39 on page 2 through line 17 on page 3, inclusive.

(Over)

HB0030/723190/1 Economic Matters Committee
Amendments to HB 30
Page 2 of 4

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 4, strike beginning with “That” in line 10 down through the comma in line 14.

On page 5, in line 7, in each instance, strike “CLIMATE” and substitute “PEOPLE’S”.

On page 6, after line 4, insert:

“(c) (12) The total amount that may be charged to a public service company under this section for a State fiscal year may not exceed:

(i) 0.25% of the public service company’s gross operating revenues derived from intrastate utility and electricity supplier operations in the preceding calendar year, or other 12–month period that the Chairman determines, for the costs and expenses of the Commission other than that of the Office of People’s Counsel; plus

(ii) [0.05%] 0.074% of those revenues for the costs and expenses of the Office of People’s Counsel.

2–203.

(a) (1) The State budget shall provide sufficient money for the Office of People’s Counsel to hire necessary staff in addition to the staff assistance that is provided under § 2–205(c)(2) of this subtitle.

(2) THE OFFICE OF PEOPLE’S COUNSEL SHALL HIRE AT LEAST ONE ASSISTANT PEOPLE’S COUNSEL WHO WILL FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES.

(f) The Office of People’s Counsel may retain as necessary for a particular matter or hire experts in the field of:

HB0030/723190/1 Economic Matters Committee
Amendments to HB 30
Page 3 of 4

(1) utility regulation, including cost of capital experts, rate design experts, accountants, economists, engineers, transportation specialists, and lawyers; AND

(2) CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING METEOROLOGISTS, OCEANOGRAPHERS, ECOLOGISTS, FORESTERS, GEOLOGISTS, SEISMOLOGISTS, BOTANISTS, AND EXPERTS IN ANY OTHER FIELD OF SCIENCE THAT THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL DETERMINES IS NECESSARY.

2-204.

(a) (1) (I) The Office of People's Counsel shall evaluate each matter pending before the Commission to determine if the interests of residential and noncommercial users are affected.

(II) IN DETERMINING WHETHER THE INTERESTS OF RESIDENTIAL AND NONCOMMERCIAL USERS ARE AFFECTED, THE OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL SHALL CONSIDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY, ECONOMIC WELFARE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS OF THE STATE AND ITS RESIDENTS, INCLUDING THE STATE'S PROGRESS TOWARD MEETING ITS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS GOALS.

(2) If the Office of People's Counsel considers the interest of residential and noncommercial users to be affected, the Office of People's Counsel shall appear before the Commission and courts on behalf of residential and noncommercial users in each matter or proceeding over which the Commission has original jurisdiction, including a proceeding on the rates, service, or practices of a public service company or on a violation of this division.

(3) As the Office of People's Counsel considers necessary, the Office of People's Counsel shall conduct investigations and request the Commission to initiate proceedings to protect the interests of residential and noncommercial users."

On pages 6 through 25, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 5 on page 6 through line 7 on page 25, inclusive.

(Over)

HB0030/723190/1 Economic Matters Committee
Amendments to HB 30
Page 4 of 4

On page 26, in line 3, in each instance, strike “**CLIMATE**” and substitute “**PEOPLE’S**”.

On page 29, in line 14, in each instance, strike “**CLIMATE**” and substitute “**PEOPLE’S**”.

On page 32, in line 5, strike “3.” and substitute “2.”.