

Chapter 464

(Senate Bill 1069)

AN ACT concerning

Public Utilities – Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Public Notice

FOR the purpose of requiring the Public Service Commission to provide a weekly notice of a public hearing and an opportunity for public comment on a certain number of social media types and on the Commission’s Web site with a certain frequency before the public hearing date; requiring the Commission, before a public hearing, to coordinate with a certain governing body or municipal corporation to identify certain options for providing notice of the public hearing; requiring that a certain informational sign be posted in a certain manner on the day of a public hearing; specifying the contents and size of a certain informational sign; and generally relating to public notice for an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Utilities
Section 7–207(d)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Utilities

7–207.

(d) (1) The Commission shall provide an opportunity for public comment and hold a public hearing on the application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity in each county and municipal corporation in which any portion of the construction of a generating station, an overhead transmission line designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts, or a qualified generator lead line is proposed to be located.

(2) The Commission shall hold the public hearing jointly with the governing body of the county or municipal corporation in which any portion of the construction of the generating station, overhead transmission line, or qualified generator lead line is proposed to be located, unless the governing body declines to participate in the hearing.

(3) (I) Once in each of the 4 successive weeks immediately before the hearing date, the Commission shall provide weekly notice of the public hearing and an opportunity for public comment:

1. by advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in the county or municipal corporation affected by the application;
2. ON TWO TYPES OF SOCIAL MEDIA; AND
3. ON THE COMMISSION'S WEB SITE.

(II) BEFORE A PUBLIC HEARING, THE COMMISSION SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IN WHICH ANY PORTION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GENERATING STATION, OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINE, OR QUALIFIED GENERATOR LEAD LINE IS PROPOSED TO BE LOCATED TO IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR PROVIDING, IN AN EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER, NOTICE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING THROUGH OTHER TYPES OF MEDIA THAT ARE FAMILIAR TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

(4) (I) ON THE DAY OF A PUBLIC HEARING, AN INFORMATIONAL SIGN SHALL BE POSTED PROMINENTLY AT OR NEAR EACH PUBLIC ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING IN WHICH THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD.

(II) THE INFORMATIONAL SIGN REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL:

1. STATE THE TIME, ROOM NUMBER, AND SUBJECT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING; AND
2. BE AT LEAST 17 BY 22 INCHES IN SIZE.

[(4)] (5) (i) The Commission shall ensure presentation and recommendations from each interested State unit, and shall allow representatives of each State unit to sit during hearing of all parties.

(ii) The Commission shall allow each State unit 15 days after the conclusion of the hearing to modify the State unit's initial recommendations.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2016.