

SHORT TITLE: Corporation Commission; clarifying statutory language;
emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE BILL NO. 985

By: Easley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Corporation Commission;

amending 17 O.S. 1991, Section 152, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 315, O.S.L. 1994 (17 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 152), which relates to Corporation Commission jurisdiction over public utilities; clarifying statutory language; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 17 O.S. 1991, Section 152, as last amended by Section 6, Chapter 315, O.S.L. 1994 (17 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 152), is amended to read as follows:

Section 152. A. The Corporation Commission shall have general supervision over all public utilities, with power to fix and establish rates and to prescribe and promulgate rules, requirements and regulations, affecting their services, operation, and the management and conduct of their business; shall inquire into the management of the business thereof, and the method in which same is conducted.

B. 1. When any public utility subject to general supervision pursuant to this section or to Section 158.27 of this title shall file with the Commission a request for review of its rates and charges, such request shall be given immediate attention.

2. In the exercise of this responsibility, the Commission shall complete any examination of such request for a review of its rates and charges within one hundred twenty (120) days from the date such application for review of its rates and charges is filed.

3. Public hearings on such matter must commence within forty-five (45) days of the end of such examination to be conducted by the Commission and in no event shall the conclusion of such examination of the rates and charges and the hearing conducted by the Commission exceed one hundred eighty (180) days from the date the request was filed.

4. If such request for review of the applicant's rates and charges has not been completed and an order issued within one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of filing of such application, some or all of the request for changes in the rates, charges, and regulations made in such application shall be immediately placed into effect and collected through new tariffs on an interim basis at the discretion of the applicant.

5. Should the Commission determine upon the completion of its examination and public hearings that a refund regarding the amount of interim relief is appropriate and necessary, the Commission shall order such refund including reasonable interest at the one-year U.S. Treasury bill rate accruing on that portion of the rate increase to be refunded for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days from the effective date of the rate increase which is being refunded.

C. The Commission shall have full visitorial and inquisitorial power to examine such public utilities, and keep informed as to their general conditions, their capitalization, rates, plants, equipments, apparatus, and other property owned, leased, controlled or operated, the value of same, the management, conduct, operation, practices and services; not only with respect to the adequacy, security and accommodation afforded by their service, but also with respect to their compliance with the provisions of this act, and

with the Constitution and laws of this state, and with the orders of the Commission.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

46-2-2077

MJM