

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 282

By: Dahm

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to public utility rates; amending 17  
8 O.S. 2011, Section 152, which relates to the  
9 Corporation Commission's review of rate change  
10 requests; eliminating modification of rates in  
11 certain circumstances; eliminating related  
12 procedures; and providing an effective date.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 17 O.S. 2011, Section 152, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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