

No. 145

AN ACT

SB 1219

Amending the act of March 31, 1937 (P.L.160, No.43), entitled "An act creating a commission to be known as the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission; defining in part the powers and duties of such commission; abolishing The Public Service Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, terminating the terms of the members thereof, and transferring to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission the records, employes, property, and equipment of The Public Service Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; authorizing the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to appear in and complete all pending proceedings, legal or otherwise, instituted before, by or against The Public Service Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; providing that all certificates of public convenience, contracts, orders, and rules and regulations of the latter commission shall remain effective until repealed, changed or modified by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, and transferring and appropriating to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission any unexpended balance of any existing appropriation to The Public Service Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," further providing for the organization of the commission.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. The act of March 31, 1937 (P.L.160, No.43), entitled "An act creating a commission to be known as the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission; defining in part the powers and duties of such commission; abolishing The Public Service Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, terminating the terms of the members thereof, and transferring to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission the records, employes, property, and equipment of The Public Service Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; authorizing the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to appear in and complete all pending proceedings, legal or otherwise, instituted before, by or against The Public Service Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; providing that all certificates of public convenience, contracts, orders, and rules and regulations of the latter commission shall remain effective until repealed, changed or modified by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, and transferring and appropriating to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission any unexpended balance of any existing appropriation to The Public Service Commission of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," is amended by adding a section to read:

Section 7.1. There is hereby established within the operating structure of the commission a bureau to be known as the Bureau of Conservation, Economics and Energy Planning which shall conduct studies and research all matters within the commission's jurisdiction and advise the commission of the results thereof in order to enable the commission to provide prospective regulation in the best interest of all parties concerned. Such

studies and research shall include long range forecasting of energy needs and development, research into the use of new, efficient and economic methods of energy production; the review of the efficiency of present generating systems operated within the Commonwealth; and the development of an effective program of energy conservation. The bureau shall review all proposals for electric and gas public utility plant expansion and shall submit for consideration of the commission its findings on what impact, if any, the electric and gas public utility plant expansion will have on rates charged by the public utility.

APPROVED—The 9th day of July, A. D. 1976.

MILTON J. SHAPP