

No. 1982-187

AN ACT

SB 1135

Amending Title 66 (Public Utilities) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for the commission to fix the compensation for administrative law judges and providing an annual appropriation for the operation of the commission.

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

Section 1. Section 304(a) of Title 66, act of November 25, 1970 (P.L.707, No.230), known as the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, is amended to read:

§ 304. Administrative law judges.

(a) General rule.—The office of administrative law judge to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is hereby created. The commission shall have the power to appoint as many qualified and competent administrative law judges as may be necessary for proceedings pursuant to this part, and who shall devote full time to their official duties and who shall perform no duties inconsistent with their duties and responsibilities as administrative law judges. Administrative law judges shall be afforded employment security as provided by the act of August 5, 1941 (P.L.752, No.286), known as the "Civil Service Act." Compensation for administrative law judges shall be established by the commission [within a range of \$25,000 to \$35,000]. If the commission is occasionally and temporarily understaffed of administrative law judges, the commission may appoint qualified and competent persons who meet the minimum standards established by this part to temporarily serve as such judges, who shall serve at the pleasure of the commission and shall receive such compensation as the commission may establish.

* * *

Section 2. Title 66 is amended by adding a section to read:

§ 320. Annual appropriations.

The following sums, or as much thereof as may be necessary, are hereby specifically appropriated from the restricted revenue account within the General Fund to the Public Utility Commission to provide for the operation of the commission for the fiscal period July 1, 1982 to June 30, 1983, for the purposes and in the amounts shown:

(1) For the salaries, wages and all necessary expenses for the proper administration of the Public Utility Commission including the chairman and commissioners, Office of the Director of Operations, Bureau of Public Information, Office of Special Assistants, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs and the Secretary's Bureau.....

\$5,759,000

(2) For the salaries, wages and all necessary expenses for the proper administration of the Offices of Counsel and Administrative Law Judge..... **4,438,000**

(3) For the salaries, wages and all necessary expenses for the proper administration of rates, research and transportation including the Bureau of Conservation, Economics and Energy Planning, Bureau of Nonrail Transportation, Bureau of Rail Transportation and the Bureau of Rates..... **5,309,000**

(4) For the salaries, wages and all necessary expenses for the proper administration of investigations, services and enforcement including the Bureau of Audits, the Bureau of Consumer Services and the Bureau of Safety and Compliance..... **5,020,000**

Section 3. (a) Sections 1 and 3 of this act shall take effect immediately.

(b) Section 2 of this act shall take effect July 1, 1982 or if enacted subsequent to that date, then immediately.

APPROVED—The 29th day of June, A. D. 1982.

DICK THORNBURGH