

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 56-265.13:6 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Small Water or*
3 *Sewer Public Utility Act; Commission authority regarding rates changes.*

4 [H 370]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 56-265.13:6 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**8 § 56-265.13:6. Public hearing on application; prohibition of multiple rate increases within any
9 twelve-month period.

10 A. Upon application to the Commission by at least twenty-five percent of all customers affected by a
11 rate change or by 250 affected customers, whichever number is lesser, or by the small water or sewer
12 utility itself, or by the Commission, upon its own motion, a hearing shall be held after at least thirty
13 days' notice to the small water or sewer utility and to its customers. The Commission may order such
14 improvements or changes in service, ~~regulations~~, measurements, practices, acts, ~~and~~ rates, *charges, fees,*
15 *and rules and regulations* of such utility as are just and reasonable.

16 When a hearing is ordered, the Commission shall have the authority to suspend such rates, ~~tolls, and~~
17 ~~charges, fees, and rules and regulations~~ for no more than sixty days ~~and~~ or to declare them to be
18 interim ~~thereafter and~~ , or both. *Interim rates, fees, and charges shall be* subject to refund with interest
19 until such time as the Commission has made its final determination in the proceeding. Upon completion
20 of the hearing and decision, the Commission may order such public utility to refund, with interest at a
21 rate set by the Commission, the portion of such rates, ~~tolls, or~~ *charges, or fees* found not justified by its
22 decision.

23 B. A small water or sewer utility shall not implement an increase in the utility's rates or charges
24 more than once within any twelve-month period. This limitation shall not prohibit applications for
25 increases in rates or charges pursuant to § 56-245.

ENROLLED

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