
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

- Removes the requirement that the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) office be open during specific business hours.
- Allows the Power Siting Board, subject to Controlling Board approval, to contract for the services of outside experts and analysts and fund the expense through certificate or amendment application fees imposed under continuing law.
- Changes the requirement that basic local exchange service provide for a telephone directory in any reasonable format to include, at the telephone company's option, an internet-accessible database of directory listings.
- Requires a telephone company that no longer offers a printed directory to provide reasonable customer notice of available options to obtain directory information.
- Requires PUCO to amend its rules, no later than 90 days after the internet-accessible database format option takes effect, as necessary to bring the rules into conformity with that new format option.

Hours of operation

(R.C. 4901.10)

The act removes the requirement that the office of the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the result that it must be open simply "throughout the year, Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays excepted."

PSB contract for expert or analyst

(R.C. 4906.02)

The act allows the Power Siting Board (PSB) to contract with experts or analysts (other than employees of the Environmental Protection Agency or Departments of Natural Resources, Agriculture, Health, or Development who may be called temporarily to provide assistance to Chairperson of PUCO) for the purposes of carrying out PSB's powers and duties under continuing law. Contracts for such experts and analysts are subject to Controlling Board approval, and any expert or analyst must be compensated from the PSB certificate application fee, or if necessary, supplemental application fees, assessed under continuing law.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁹ R.C. 4906.06, not in the act.

Internet telephone directories

(R.C. 4927.01; Section 749.10)

The act changes the requirement that basic local exchange service (BLES) provide for a telephone directory in any reasonable format to include, at the telephone company's option, an internet-accessible database of directory listings. Continuing law still requires a listing in that directory, for no additional charge, with reasonable accommodations made for private listings.

The act further requires a telephone company providing BLES that no longer offers a printed telephone directory to provide reasonable customer notice of the available options to obtain such directory information.

PUCO must amend its rules, no later than 90 days after the internet-accessible database format option takes effect, as necessary to bring the rules into conformity with that new format option.