



# **Office of Legislative Affairs**



## Office Description

The Office is responsible for promoting the Commission's position on legislation and issues before the General Assembly, handling constituent inquiries and analyzing legislation and amendments that affect the Commission and public utilities.



## Office Description, cont'd.

- Created in the '70s
- Smallest office in the Commission
  - Staff of Three:
  - June Perry, Director; Tom Beene, Assistant Director; Executive Secretary
- Depends on assistance from other Bureaus: legal, advisory and consumer assistance





# Primary Duties

- Liaison
  - with the Governor's Office
  - with the General Assembly: 253 House(203) and Senate(50) Members
  - with the PA U.S. Congressional Delegation 19 House members; 2 Senators

## Primary Duties, cont'd.

- Office receives calls from Legislative members regarding constituent utility concerns; refers to appropriate bureau or provides response to members
- Office responds to letters from the Legislature, Governor's Office and Congressional members





## Primary Duties, cont'd.

- Arranges meetings between members and Commissioners and/or staff
- Provides orders of interest to the General Assembly
- Notifies members of public input hearings
- To help implement new laws and regulation defining legislative intent



# Legislative oversight

PUC--independent agency created by the Legislature (1937)

1. Budget Process: Governor submits proposed budget for the PUC to the Legislature for approval; General Fund \$s vs. Assessments--PUC's operations are funded by utilities; not tax \$\$s
2. Legislation and Regulatory Review
3. Nomination Process



# Oversight Committees

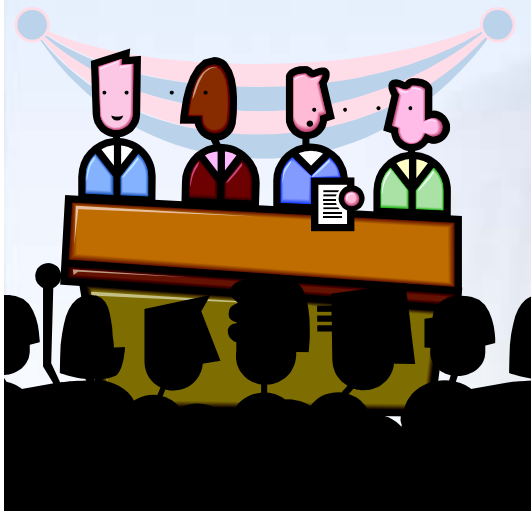
- Oversight Committees:
  - House Consumer Affairs Committee
  - Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee
  - Other Committees
- Legislation affecting the Public Utility Code; Commission may have a position on bills or may even provide technical drafting assistance on bills





# Legislative Process

- Hearings on public utility legislation or issues; provides testimony or PUC position
- Review of PUC proposed/final regulations; proposed/final form regulations are delivered to House and Senate oversight committees which may comment on the regulations or may approve/disapprove regulations



# Nomination Process

- Governor nominates person to serve as Commissioner and submits nomination to the Senate
- Senate oversight Committee hearing; reports nomination to Senate
- Full Senate votes on the Governor's nominee

