

CHAPTER 144
FORMERLY
SENATE SUBSTITUTE NO. 1
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 14

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend § 8716, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by underline as follows:

§ 8716. Division of the Public Advocate.

(e) The Public Advocate shall have the following powers and duties:

(3)a. To appear on behalf of the interest of consumers in the courts of this State, the federal courts and federal administrative and regulatory agencies and commissions in matters involving rates, ~~service~~ services, and practices of public utilities.

b. To appear before State regulatory agencies or commissions for the limited purpose of offering public comment when public comment is being received in matters involving rates, services, and practices of public utilities.

(4) To hire, ~~from time to time~~, as needed, ~~in connection with proceedings before the Commission~~, experts in the utility regulation field, ~~including, but not limited to,~~ including economists, cost of capital experts, rate design experts, accountants, ~~engineers~~ engineers, attorneys, and other specialists. A budget for compensation ~~and/or~~ and expenses of these experts ~~shall~~ must be provided annually through the Delaware Public Utility Regulatory Revolving Fund. Nothing in this section ~~shall~~ may be construed to preclude the Public Advocate from applying to the General Assembly for additional funds in specific instances, including emergencies, and from receiving such additional amounts as the General Assembly ~~shall determine~~ determines.

Approved July 23, 2019