

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

A Bill

SENATE BILL

503

By: Senators Allen, Harriman and Moore

For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION SHALL NOT, IN ESTABLISHING UTILITY RATES, REDUCE OR OTHERWISE CHANGE ANY WAGE RATE, BENEFIT, WORKING CONDITION, OR OTHER TERM OR CONDITION OF EMPLOYMENT THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. The General Assembly hereby finds and declares that the people of Arkansas have benefitted greatly from stable and responsible labor relations in the public utility industry, and that strengthening the institution of collective bargaining between public utilities and labor organizations for wages, hours, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment in order to preserve stability and responsibility is in the public interest. The General Assembly further finds and declares that the well-being of employees of public utilities, who are residents, citizens, taxpayers, and consumers in Arkansas, is an essential element to balance with investor and consumer interest in arriving at the public interest in setting rates for public utilities.

SECTION 2. In establishing public utility rates, the Public Service Commission shall not reduce or otherwise change any wage rate, benefit, working condition, or other term or condition of employment that is the subject of a collective bargaining agreement between the public utility and a labor organization.

SECTION 3. All provisions of this Act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.