



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael Gianaris

## Senate Deputy Leader Gianaris, Assembly Member Cruz Announce Governor Hochul Signs Their Legislation Mandating Consumer Advocate On Public Service Commission

MICHAEL GIANARIS November 8, 2021

| ISSUE: **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION, UTILITIES, PSC REFORM, ENERGY**



ALBANY – Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris and Assembly Member Catalina Cruz announced Governor Hochul signed their legislation ([A.5838/S.1199](#)) mandating a consumer advocate have a voting seat on the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC).

“Too often the Public Service Commission serves the industries it regulates rather than the public. A consumer representative on the PSC will be a powerful step in the right direction,” said **Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris**. “I am glad Governor Hochul signed this important proposal into law. New York State will now require a voice for consumers on the PSC.”

With rising utility costs impacting the millions of New Yorkers on fixed incomes and others struggling with low wage jobs and unemployment, consumers need regulators who represent their interests, not the interests of their utility companies. This law will ensure there's a voice and vote for ratepayers at the table. Thank you to our Senate Sponsor, Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris for his partnership and tireless advocacy, and to the Governor for signing this bill into law,” said **Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz**.

The PSC is comprised of five members. The board regulates telecommunications, electricity, steam, natural gas, and water service delivery. Currently, there are no membership requirements. This bill would mandate one member have expertise in utility consumer advocacy.

All members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the State Senate

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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## 2021-S1199

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- Introduced
- ◦ In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
- ◦ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ○ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
- Delivered to Governor
- Signed By Governor
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Requires that at least one commissioner of the public service commission have experience in utility consumer advocacy

January 08, 2021

Signed by Governor

Sponsored by **Michael Gianaris**

Do you support this bill?