

No. 381, S.]

[Published July 25, 1947.]

CHAPTER 418.

AN ACT to amend 49.30 of the statutes, relating to funeral expenses of old age assistance beneficiaries.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

49.30 of the statutes is amended to read:

49.30 On the death of a beneficiary reasonable funeral expenses shall be paid to such persons as the county judge directs; provided, that these expenses do not exceed * * * \$150 and that the estate of the deceased is insufficient to defray these expenses.

Approved July 22, 1947.

No. 402, S.]

[Published July 25, 1947.]

CHAPTER 419.

AN ACT to create 196.645 of the statutes, relating to prescribing retroactive rates for public utilities under certain circumstances.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

196.645 of the statutes is created to read:

196.645 REDUCTION IN RATES; RETROACTIVE EFFECT. If the rates of any public utility shall be based upon the cost of any energy, commodity or service furnished to said utility which is in turn furnished or distributed by said utility to the public served by it, and the charges for which are regulated by any authority of the federal government, and such charges are changed by such federal authority, the commission upon complaint or upon its own motion may proceed to investigate and determine whether the utility's rates shall be changed by reason of the change in the cost of energy, commodity or service resulting from the change in charges as prescribed by such federal authority; and any such change in rates by the commission may be made effective as of the effective date of the order of the federal authority prescribing such change in charges. In any such case, notwithstanding the provisions of sections 196.62 and 196.63, the commission may determine and require

payment by the utility to its customers of any sums which it may have received from them subsequent to such effective date of its said order in excess of the rates so prescribed by the commission.

Approved July 22, 1947.

No. 403, S.]

[Published July 25, 1947.

CHAPTER 420.

AN ACT to amend 196.01 (1) of the statutes, relating to the definition of the term "public utility".

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

196.01 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

196.01 (1) As used in chapters 196 and 197, unless the context requires otherwise, "public utility" means and embraces every corporation, company, individual, association, their lessees, trustees or receivers appointed by any court, and every sanitary district, town, village or city that may own, operate, manage or control any toll bridge or any plant or equipment or any part of a plant or equipment, within the state, for the conveyance of telephone messages or for the production, transmission, delivery or furnishing of heat, light, water or power either directly or indirectly to or for the public. No co-operative association organized under chapter 185 for the purpose of producing or furnishing heat, light, power or water to its members only shall be deemed a public utility under this definition. *The term "public utility" as herein defined includes any person, firm, or corporation engaged in the transmission or delivery of natural gas for compensation within this state by means of pipes or mains.*

Approved July 22, 1947.