An act relating to a refund of excess utility payments; requiring the Comptroller to provide a refund to certain utility customers who paid more under a uniform rate structure than those customers would have paid under a modified stand-alone rate structure; requiring the Public Service Commission to notify utility customers who are eligible for a refund; providing requirements for applying for a refund; requiring the Comptroller to verify eligibility for a refund; providing for the refund of utility payments to be funded from the Public Service Commission Regulatory Trust Fund; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

A bill to be entitled

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. (1) The Comptroller shall provide a refund to utility customers in this state who paid more for water and sewer services between September 15, 1993, and January 23, 1996, under the uniform rate structure imposed pursuant to Order No. PSC-93-0423-FOF-WS of the Public Service Commission than the amount such customers would have paid under the modified stand-alone rate structure approved on remand in Docket No. 920199-WS of the Public Service Commission. The refund amount for each eligible utility customer shall equal the amount paid in excess of the modified stand-alone rate, plus interest.

(2) The Public Service Commission shall notify by mail
each utility customer who is eligible for a refund under this
section and who resides in the state. The notice must include
instructions for filing an application for the refund. An
eligible utility customer must file a refund application with
the Comptroller by July 1, 1999, or shall forfeit eligibility
for the refund. The Comptroller shall verify an applicant's
eligibility and shall mail the refund in a timely manner if
the applicant is found eligible. An amount of less than \$10
shall not be refunded.

(3) The amount necessary to fund the refund of utility payments provided under this section is appropriated from the Public Service Commission Regulatory Trust Fund.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

SENATE SUMMARY

Provides for utility customers who paid more for water and sewer services under a uniform rate structure between September 15, 1993, and January 23, 1996, than the amount the customers would have paid under a modified stand-alone rate structure to be eligible for a refund of the excess amount. Provides for the Comptroller to issue the refund. Requires that an eligible utility customer apply for the refund before July 1, 1999, or forfeit eligibility. Appropriates moneys from the Public Service Commission Regulatory Trust Fund to pay the refunds.