

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 1305-03
Bill No.: HCS for HB 481
Subject: Utilities; Public Service Commission
Type: Original
Date: February 15, 2019

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies provisions for the Public Service Commission.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Public Service Commission Fund (0607)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 5 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

In response to a previous version, officials from the **Department of Economic Development (Division of Energy, Public Service Commission (PSC), Office of Public Counsel)** assumed the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Oversight notes that the Department of Economic Development (Division of Energy, Public Service Commission, Office of Public Counsel) have each stated the proposal would not have a direct fiscal impact on their respective organizations. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact on the fiscal note.

Oversight notes this bill would allow the Public Service Commission (5 members) to retain a technical advisory staff of up to ten FTE. However, the PSC may only establish additional advisory staff if there is a corresponding elimination in comparable staff positions to offset the hiring of advisory staff on a cost-neutral basis.

Oversight notes that the proposal does not require any changes in the PSC (or PSC commissioners) staff and that staff changes (if any) must be cost-neutral. Therefore, there could be an impact on how PSC staff is structured, but Oversight assumes there would be no net impact to PSC funds.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FUND			
<u>Savings</u> - PSC - Possible modification of PSC staff structure	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown
<u>Costs</u> - PSC - Possible modification of PSC staff structure	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FUND	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2020 (10 Mo.)	FY 2021	FY 2022
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

Currently, the Public Service Commission is required to have an independent technical advisory staff of up to six employees and may retain a personal advisor. This bill modifies these requirements by no longer requiring, but allowing, the commission to retain an independent technical advisory staff of up to 10 employees and a personal advisor to each commissioner.

The bill also specifies that communications with advisory staff and advisors regarding deliberations by the commission or matters that arise during the course of commission proceedings are protected from disclosure. Any advisory staff member or personal advisor who previously worked for an entity regulated by or appearing before the commission may not advise the commission on cases in which the advisory staff member or personal advisor participated while employed by the entity.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Economic Development
Division of Energy
Office of Public Counsel
Public Service Commission



Kyle Rieman
Director

Ross Strope
Assistant Director

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