

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

PSC 11/24/2003

LRB Number 03-3706/1	Introduction Number AB-672	Estimate Type Original
Subject Regulatory treatment of broadband service providers		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill proposes a definition of "broadband service" that would basically remove from regulation most high-capacity services (T-1 trunks or higher capacity) serving all but the smallest size businesses, regardless of whether Internet access is part of the service. Some companies provide both broadband and non-broadband services. In some instances, these offerings may use common facilities, staff, billing arrangements and administrative support. Accordingly, issues may arise as to how to appropriately segregate these items, both functionally and financially. These separations-type issues, along with customer confusion, will create inquiries, complaints and questions that will require PSC attention. In addition, because voice service may be easily loaded on to broadband connections, there is future potential for many consumers to become "broadband only" users and not be covered by statutes based on long-standing utility law definitions of "telecommunications service." These matters, with the related elimination of any existing broadband regulations, should not result in a need to change PSC staff resources to address the broadband landscape under the bill. Consequently, there is not a state fiscal impact estimated at this time.

Local Impact

The bill notes that "No city, village, town or county may enact an ordinance or adopt a resolution that regulates providing, or offering to provide, broadband services..." this yields the potential for some local impacts - rights' of way issues, pole rentals, and permitting. The bill would affect the states' do-not call list and have other consumer protection issues. However, it is not possible to quantify any local fiscal impact at the time.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Unknown