

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

PSC 5/26/2017

LRB Number	17-3116/1	Introduction Number	SB-219	Estimate Type	Original
Description authorizing a political subdivision to impose setback requirements for certain mobile service support structures					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The Commission has adjudicatory authority over disputes between providers and municipalities over restrictions on siting of utility facilities in public rights of way under Wis. Stats. ss. 96.58 and 182.017.

Commission staff only occasionally receives questions involving such disputes. Staff generally acts as an informal mediator in most cases, and very few such disputes ever require formal Commission action.

SB 219 would allow municipalities impose setbacks "mobile service support structures," that could restrict the placement of towers designed for cellular service and for the multiuse towers which support both cellular and broadband data services. Wisconsin Stats. s. 66.0404(k) points to the federal definition of mobile service, which would include cellular voice and data, but not fixed wireless broadband or WiFi. Fixed wireless and WiFi are increasingly being used to provide broadband in suburban and rural areas. Modern poles and towers are designed to support a variety of facilities, and antennae that support mobile digital services are physically similar to fixed broadband and other non-mobile services. As a result, SB 219 may result in some support structures intended only to support broadband facilities being affected by this change.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications