

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
PSC 4/11/01

LRB Number 01-1197/2	Introduction Number AB-302	Estimate Type Original
Subject Repeal utility public benefits program and funding		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill eliminates funding for the Public Benefits program and provisions created in WI Act 9 for the Department of Natural Resources to implement an Air Quality Improvement Fund.

Under these provisions, the PSC would discontinue billing certain public utilities for the public benefits program; determine the balance of funds in the general fund derived from those payments already made by these utilities; and refund these amounts to them. The bill also restores the past PSC requirement that these utilities spend 0.5% of their annual operating revenues on programs to promote and accomplish energy conservation, and allows the PSC to change that percentage after a hearing.

PSC costs to determine the amounts paid by certain public utilities to the fund and refund the appropriate amounts to them would be minimal in nature. Any costs associated with a hearing on the percentage levels devoted to the programs mentioned above, if one were deemed necessary, would be absorbed within the existing caseload of the Commission. The PSC has incurred no costs related to the air quality improvement fund.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

None