

Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 09-3965/1	Introduction Number AB-0696	
Description Authority of the Public Service Commission over certain telecommunications utilities, telecommunications access charges, universal service fund contributions based on interconnected voice over Internet protocol service, tandem switching provider electronic call records, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation		
Fiscal Effect		
State:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs		
Local:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts		
Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS 20.115(1)(a) and (jm)		
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
DATCP/ Michelle Reinen (608) 224-5160	Bill Walker (608) 224-4353	4/6/2010

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DATCP 4/6/2010

LRB Number	09-3965/1	Introduction Number	AB-0696	Estimate Type	Original
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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Among other things, Assembly Bill 696 changes the consumer protection authority of the Public Service Commission (PSC). Under the bill, PSC would no longer have significant authority to respond to consumer complaints involving telecommunications service. As a result, the department anticipates PSC would refer all telecommunications complaints it receives to the bureau of consumer protection.

The bill reduces PSC's authority over consumer complaints against Alternative Telecommunications Utilities (ATU). Under current law, when PSC grants ATU status to a telecommunications utility, it has discretion to apply selected portions of its regulatory authority to the individual ATU. Under the bill, PSC must apply consumer-related regulatory requirements to all ATUs and telecommunications equally.

The bill eliminates about half of PSC consumer protection authority, under s. 196.219, Stats. The bill also eliminates PSC authority to investigate and hold hearings based on consumer complaints related to telecommunications services as well as PSC authority to investigate and hold hearings on its own motion related to unfair consumer protection activities of an ATU or telecommunications provider.

Because the bill would essentially eliminate PSC authority over telecommunications consumer protection, the department expects all telecommunications consumer complaints to be redirected to the department. The department would have authority to respond to a portion of these complaints either under specific sections of current law or under the department's general unfair trade practices authority in s. 100.20(1), Stats.

The department cannot estimate the precise number of complaints that would be referred under the bill. In 2009, telecommunications was the third most complained-about subject area by consumers.

The department anticipates that the bill would increase the number of complaints received by the department by at least half of current workload. This new workload would require an additional 3.0 FTE positions, and could not be absorbed by current staff. Possible funding sources are PR from the current telecommunications assessment under s. 20.115(1)(jm), Stats., and GPR from the general consumer protection appropriation under s. 20.115(1)(a), Stats.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2009 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

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Description Authority of the Public Service Commission over certain telecommunications utilities, telecommunications access charges, universal service fund contributions based on interconnected voice over Internet protocol service, tandem switching provider electronic call records, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation			
I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect): Office setup, desks, telephones, computers and supplies \$30,000.			
II. Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
	State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$132,900	\$
	(FTE Position Changes)	(3.0 FTE)	
	State Operations - Other Costs	42,600	
	Local Assistance		
	Aids to Individuals or Organizations		
	TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$175,500	\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
	GPR	175,500	
	FED		
	PRO/PRS		
	SEG/SEG-S		
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)			
		Increased Rev	Decreased Rev
	GPR Taxes	\$	\$
	GPR Earned		
	FED		
	PRO/PRS		
	SEG/SEG-S		
	TOTAL State Revenues	\$	\$
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT			
		State	Local
	NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$175,500	\$
	NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$	\$
Agency/Prepared By			
DATCP/ Michelle Reinen (608) 224-5160		Authorized Signature	
		Bill Walker (608) 224-4353	
		Date	
		4/6/2010	