

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

PSC 5/12/2009

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| LRB Number | 09-1048/4 | Introduction Number | SB-185 | Estimate Type | Original |
| Description Regulation of wind energy systems and granting rule-making authority | | | | | |

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill proposes to establish certain criteria for political subdivisions wishing to establish regulations on Wind or Solar systems of 100 megawatts or more.

The bill would require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to establish rules specifying requirements and procedures for a political subdivision to enforce restrictions on wind or solar systems. If the political subdivision chooses to regulate such systems, its ordinances may not be more restrictive than the PSC rules. The PSC has over 500 different cases or proceedings before it each year. The time and cost to do the rule making required in this bill would be absorbed within existing staff time.

The bill provides that any person aggrieved by the decision of a political subdivision may ask for PSC review. This provision would require the PSC and the political subdivision to be a part of a process to determine if a different decision is appropriate. Presumably, this process will require staff time of both entities that currently is not spent. However, time costs associated with such a process and the number of times such a process will occur are not known. It is possible that the standardization of the principles upon which decisions are made across the state may reduce the time spent by some political subdivisions who have previously defined and defended their own standards.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Indeterminate