Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session

☑ Original ☐ Updated	Corrected Su	upplemental				
LRB Number 09-3964/1	Introduction Number SB-	469				
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						
Appropriations Decrease Existing Appropriations Reverse Appropriations Create New Appropriations Local: No Local Government Costs Indeterminate 1. Increase Costs Permissive Mandatory Perm 2. Decrease Costs 4. Decrease	rease Revenue Counties O	ency's budget				
Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 Approp	riations				
☐ GPR ☐ FED ☑ PRO ☐ PRS ☑ SEG ☐ SEGS						
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date				
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives PSC 2/5/2010

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill would eliminate Commission authority over a majority of its current regulation of the telecommunications sector. While some authority over interconnection and wholesale interactions remains, the bill would eliminate the Commission's regulatory functions related to investigation, consumer complaint, affiliated interest and other powers related to the retail market. As a result, it appears that a significant amount of the direct assessment income from telecommunications would be eliminated. It could also be argued that the telecommunications companies should pay significantly less in remainder assessment since the Commission would be doing so much less that involves them. This change could have serious impact PSC budget and how non-telecommunications providers are affected in their own assessments.

The bill does institute a new universal service fund program that would help small telecommunications companies as reductions in their access charges would be required with passage of this bill. As the nature of the program and, with that, the nature of the job of the USF administrator changes and likely creates increases in work and responsibility, the amount the Commission would have to pay the USF administrator would need to be elevated as welf. It would also require the Commission to get an increase in the USF appropriation from its current \$5.9 million.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

indeterminant, but could have potential impact on future PSC budgets and staffing levels