

Fiscal Estimate - 2011 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 11-3359/6	Introduction Number AB-0527	
Description Commissioners of the Public Service Commission; notices, orders, and determinations of the commission; certificates of authority issued by the commission; approval of contracts by the commission; electricity sales from certain wholesale merchant plants; public utility removal of certain electric service lines; renewable resource credits; tampering or interfering with utility equipment; granting rule-making authority; and providing penalties		
Fiscal Effect State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input 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 type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS		
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

PSC 2/13/2012

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The proposed legislation makes several changes to statutes governing regulatory activities of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, and, overall, the proposed changes will reduce administrative burden and streamline Commission regulatory activities. The proposed legislation also creates new requirements regarding political activities of Commissioners and changes the penalties for utility connection tampering. The changes regarding penalties for connection tampering are not related to agency activities. Other changes included in the proposed legislation affect the agency but are not anticipated to have an overall fiscal impact.

Proposed changes which will reduce administrative burden and streamline Commission regulatory activities include changes relating to renewable energy, to amounts of consideration for contract arrangements with affiliates, to new exceptions for certificates of authority for construction projects, to new exceptions for removal of electric service drops and laterals, and to the new exception to current law prohibiting firm sales of electricity to affiliates for an Adams or Juneau Co. wholesale merchant plant. The changes to deadlines for Commission regulatory actions are not anticipated to be burdensome to the Commission, and therefore are not anticipated to have a fiscal impact.

The proposed requirements regarding political activities of Commissioners may require new administrative processes at the Commission but this proposed change is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact.

Finally, the proposed changes allowing the Commission to deliver notices, orders, and determinations by electronic mail and other methods in addition to personal delivery and U.S. mail are anticipated to immediately reduce postage and other mailing costs. However, the immediate savings is expected to be small, less than \$15,000, and potential savings could be offset by new, one-time or on-going, information systems costs for implementing electronic delivery. In the longer term, this change is anticipated to create administrative efficiencies and generate more significant savings as operations and staff costs, that are currently fixed, are able to be incrementally reduced. However, a reliable savings estimate is not available at this time.

Overall the proposed changes are not anticipated to result in an immediate fiscal impact to the Commission, but in the long term, the proposed changes are anticipated to streamline workload and create administrative efficiencies that are estimated to result in savings.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The proposed changes are anticipated to generate savings in staff effort and administrative processes, although a reliable savings estimate is not available at this time.