

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

PSC 11/3/2011

LRB Number	11-2355/4	Introduction Number	SB-263	Estimate Type	Original
Description Setback requirements for wind energy systems and granting rule-making authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under the proposed legislation, the Commission may not promulgate rules on siting wind energy systems until it has received a report from the Department of Health Services evaluating the health effects of wind energy systems on people and animals. The Commission must specify setback requirements in rule based on the Department of Health Services' report. The proposed legislation also prohibits construction of large wind energy systems until wind siting rules are promulgated by the Commission.

The proposed legislation is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact at the Commission because additional workload due to the proposed changes will be absorbed within current agency resources. Under current law, the Commission is required to include setback requirements, in rule, that provide reasonable protection from health effects associated with wind energy systems. The proposed legislation modifies this current requirement; the Commission will establish setback requirements after it is provided a report on health effects from the Department of Health Services. Because the Commission has already promulgated rules on setbacks, this bill would require the Commission to reconsider and potentially revise the existing rules. However, this new workload is anticipated to be absorbed within current agency resources.

The proposed legislation also prohibits construction of large wind energy systems (wind energy systems with a total capacity of 300 kilowatts or greater and individual turbine capacity at 100 kilowatts or greater) until wind siting rules are promulgated by the Commission. The Commission estimates that any workload changes due to potential construction delays under the proposed legislation would be absorbed within current agency resources. Therefore, the proposed legislation is not estimated to increase or decrease Commission costs.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

None