



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #565

Stray Voltage Program (Public Service Commission)

[LFB 2011-13 Budget Summary: Page 375, #4]

CURRENT LAW

The Public Service Commission operates a program, together with the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, to address the health effects of stray voltage on dairy cattle. Program costs are funded through assessments on public utilities that produce electricity and have annual gross operating revenues related to electricity in excess of \$100 million.

GOVERNOR

Delete \$12,100 PR annually to reduce funding for supplies and services in the stray voltage program. Also, the bill would reduce the stray voltage program appropriation by an additional \$4,200 annually to reflect increases in employee contributions for pensions and health insurance and by an additional \$74,900 annually to reflect the elimination of long-term vacancies. The three reductions total \$91,200 PR annually.

MODIFICATION

Increase the appropriation for the stray voltage program by \$91,200 PR annually.

Explanation: The bill directs the Secretary of the Department of Administration (DOA) to lapse to the general fund \$45.3 million annually from unencumbered balances of PR appropriations of executive branch state agencies associated with: (a) employee compensation reductions; (b) eliminating long-term vacancies; (c) across-the-board reductions to nonsalary and fringe benefits funding for most agencies; and (d) funding eliminated for the two percent wage increase for represented staff that was approved in June, 2009. The bill specifies a lapse for the PSC of \$91,200 annually. Supporting documentation for the bill submitted by DOA indicates that the entire PSC lapse would be generated

through the appropriation for the stray voltage program. As noted above, the bill would also reduce the appropriation for the stray voltage program by \$91,200 annually. Like most PSC appropriations, the stray voltage appropriation is funded with program revenue. Under the stray voltage appropriation, the PSC can collect revenues only up to the appropriation level. By reducing the stray voltage appropriation, the bill would preclude the PSC from realizing its required lapse. DOA indicates that the bill should be amended to increase the stray voltage appropriation by \$91,200 annually, so that the PSC can meet the bill's lapse requirement.

	Change to Bill	
	Revenue	Funding
PR	\$182,400	\$182,400

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