



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL No. 2287

PRINTER'S NO: 3266

PRIME SPONSOR: D. Evans

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
States Funds—Restricted revenue account (from utility company assessments)	\$0	\$56,003,000
Federal Funds	\$1,068,000	\$4,257,000

OVERVIEW:

This bill appropriates \$56,003,000 in state funds and \$4,257,000 in federal funds to the Public Utility Commission (PUC) for its operations for FY 2010/11. It also appropriates \$1,068,000 in federal funds to the PUC for FY 2009/10. State funding for the PUC comes from assessments on the utilities regulated by the PUC.

The effective date is July 1, 2010, or immediately, whichever is later.

ANALYSIS:

This bill has several appropriations. It appropriates the Governor's recommended 2010/11 budget of \$56,003,000 in state funds for general government operations of the PUC. This amount provides for a \$3,422,000 increase (6.5%) over the 2009/10 appropriation of \$52,581,000.

The bill also makes federal appropriations of \$1,501,000 for natural gas pipeline safety and \$1,888,000 for motor carrier safety. In addition, the bill appropriates \$1,068,000 for FY 2009/10 and \$868,000 for FY 2010/11 in federal funds for electric regulatory assistance pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 (Public Law 111-5, 123 Stat. 115).

The entire 6.5% increase in state funds will be used for personnel costs and will allow the PUC to fill its complement to the authorized level of 519. It is currently filled to only 480. This would bring the filled complement back up to the level of FY 2008/09. Personnel costs account for 80.3% of the total state-funded PUC budget.

In recent years the General Assembly has passed several major pieces of legislation significantly impacting duties and the workload for the Public Utility Commission, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Act 129 of 2009 (House Bill 2200) Energy Conservation
- The Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act (Act 213 of 2004)
- The Responsible Utility Customer Protection Act (Act 201 of 2004)
- Act 183 of 2004, which amended Chapter 30 on Broadband
- Natural Gas Choice and Competition Act (Act 21 of 1999), which gave the PUC the responsibility to regulate the Philadelphia Gas Works.

Sources used in the preparation of this fiscal note include budget documentation and testimony submitted to the Committee of Appropriations and other information provided by the Public Utility Commission.

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House Committee on Appropriations (D)

DATE: March 8, 2010

General Note and Disclaimer: *This Fiscal Note was prepared pursuant to House Rule 19(a), and the elements considered and reported above are required by Section 5 of the rule. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*