

- Total appropriated budget increased 17.3% from the FY 2000-2001 biennium to the FY 2002-2003 biennium
- Motor carrier safety grants awarded in FY 2002

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

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ROLE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) is the sole agency that regulates the provision of utility services. The commission consists of a chairperson and four commissioners who are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2002	2003	2002	2003	
405	\$54 million	\$54 million	\$0	\$0	Am. Sub. H.B. 94

OVERVIEW

The PUCO was fully funded at requested levels for the FY 2002-2003 biennium at \$107,518,858. The PUCO's total appropriated budget increased 17.3 percent from the FY 2000-2001 to the FY 2002-2003 biennium. The PUCO's total appropriated budget increased by 17.7 percent from FY 2001 to FY 2002, although compared to FY 2001 actual expenditures, FY 2002 appropriations are 20.8 percent higher. (The PUCO was appropriated \$91,603,204 for the FY 2000-2001 biennium, but actual expenditures totaled \$86,491,139, a difference of \$5,112,065.) Appropriations decrease 0.63 percent from FY 2002 to FY 2003. Funding comes through assessments on utilities as well as fees generated by intrastate and interstate motor carrier registrations and federal assistance.

BUDGET ISSUES

MARKET MONITORING

Funding for the FY 2002-2003 biennium will allow the PUCO to hire four new employees in their Division of Market Monitoring and Assessment. The Division of Market Monitoring and Assessment collects monthly information on a quarterly basis from the electric distribution utilities (EDUs), competitive retail electric service providers (certified electric utilities power marketers, power brokers, aggregators or independent power producers/distributed generators), certified competitive electric cooperatives, and governmental aggregators. The purpose of market monitoring is to assist the PUCO in

determining whether effective competition exists for a competitive retail electric service. Expenditures for market monitoring responsibilities come from the PUCO's 5F6 Utility & Railroad Regulation line item, which was appropriated \$29,104,298 in FY 2002 and \$30,622,222 in FY 2003.

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE INFORMATION SYSTEMS & NETWORKS PROGRAM

In FY 2002 the PUCO will receive \$2.5 million in federal grant money to fund the Commercial Vehicle Information Systems & Networks (CVISN). CVISN plans to improve highway safety through electronic technologies. The Ohio CVISN project will allow Ohio trucking companies and those based elsewhere but traveling through Ohio to conduct many of their paperwork transactions (obtaining permits, proving insurance, licensing vehicles, etc.) with Ohio state government agencies by electronic means. It is estimated that this initiative will substantially reduce delays and administrative costs inherent in these paper processes.

CERTIFICATION OF NATURAL GAS SUPPLIERS & AGGREGATORS

In March 2001, Sub. H.B. 9 of the 124th General Assembly was passed giving the PUCO new responsibilities, such as setting up a certification program for governmental aggregation and retail suppliers and dealing with several cost issues of natural gas companies relating to a more open retail gas supply market. The LSC fiscal analysis of Sub. H.B. 9 notes that implementation of a certification program may require two additional full-time staff in the Utility Specialist 1 classification. Two Utility Specialists are estimated to cost \$111,400 per year. There was no appropriation in Sub. H.B. 9 to support these positions and the PUCO did not include the request for funding for additional Utility Specialists in their FY 2002-2003 biennium budget proposal. The PUCO will either hire the Utility Specialists with current funding levels or distribute the added responsibilities among current staff members.

OTHER FUNDING ISSUES

With biennium funding the PUCO will be able to employ one Database Analyst, three Transportation Examiners, and two Hazmat Investigator Specialists to assist in the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP). These employees will aid in conducting audits of trucking companies and investigating hazardous materials carriers to achieve the objective of reducing the number and severity of accidents and hazardous materials incidents involving commercial motor vehicles. Also, biennium funding will allow the PUCO to hire four Program Analysts to aid in the design, development, and implementation of the PUCO Information Technology Plan. Furthermore, funding levels will allow the PUCO to replace agency vehicles, provide computers for field staff, and provide copiers and other office equipment and supplies for the agency.

A provision in Am. Sub. H.B. 94 of the 124th General Assembly replaces the seat tax on motor vehicles used for transporting persons (buses) to a flat tax of \$30. Previous motor vehicle seat tax was determined by multiplying the number of passengers that can be seated at one time by four. The PUCO estimates the provision may result in a revenue decrease of approximately \$28,400 per year. 

FY 2002 - 2003 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

Line Item Detail by Agency

FY 1999: FY 2000: FY 2001: **FY 2002** % Change **FY 2003** % Change
 Appropriations: 2001 to 2002: Appropriations: 2002 to 2003:

Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill

Version: Enacted

PUC Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

GRF	870-501	NARUC/NRRI-Subsidy	\$ 0	----		----	N/A	----	N/A
GRF	871-321	Utility Regulation	\$ 0	\$ 0		\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
GRF	871-499	State Match	\$ 0	\$ 0		\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
GRF	872-321	Transportation Regulation	\$ 0	\$ 0		\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
GRF	872-498	State Transportation Match	\$ 0	\$ 0		\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 0	\$ 0	----	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
558	870-602	Salvage & Exchange	\$ 33,992	\$ 0	\$29,005	\$ 32,474	11.96%	\$ 33,285	2.50%
5F6	870-622	Utility & Railroad Regulation	\$ 22,400,458	\$ 25,293,634	\$26,480,155	\$ 29,104,298	9.91%	\$ 30,622,222	5.22%
5F6	870-624	NARUC/NRRI Subsidy	\$ 158,515	\$ 167,233	\$167,233	\$ 167,233	0.00%	\$ 167,233	0.00%
5F6	870-625	Motor Transportation Regulation	\$ 3,281,479	\$ 3,776,082	\$4,161,380	\$ 4,578,771	10.03%	\$ 4,811,239	5.08%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 25,874,444	\$ 29,236,949	\$ 30,837,773	\$ 33,882,776	9.87%	\$ 35,633,979	5.17%
333	870-601	Gas Pipeline Safety	\$ 250,041	\$ 387,776	\$391,377	\$ 461,920	18.02%	\$ 485,332	5.07%
3V3	870-604	Commercial Vehicle Information Syste	----	----		\$ 2,500,000	N/A	\$ 0	-100.00%
350	870-608	Motor Carrier Safety	\$ 4,201,868	\$ 3,376,533	\$3,977,680	\$ 6,749,153	69.68%	\$ 7,027,712	4.13%
Federal Special Revenue Fund Group Total			\$ 4,451,909	\$ 3,764,309	\$ 4,369,057	\$ 9,711,073	122.27%	\$ 7,513,044	-22.63%
559	870-605	Public Utilities Territorial Administration	\$ 0	\$ 0		\$ 4,000	N/A	\$ 4,000	0.00%
561	870-606	Power Siting Board	\$ 89,656	\$ 265,923	\$262,573	\$ 319,839	21.81%	\$ 337,210	5.43%
560	870-607	Special Assessment	\$ 26,188	\$ 11,710	\$92,378	\$ 100,000	8.25%	\$ 100,000	0.00%
587	870-609	Utility Forecasting	\$ 991,477	\$ 95		\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
638	870-611	Biomass Energy Program	\$ 54,696	\$ 48,358	\$18,707	\$ 40,000	113.82%	\$ 40,000	0.00%
661	870-612	Hazardous Materials Transportation	\$ 548,085	\$ 994,810	\$1,007,136	\$ 800,000	-20.57%	\$ 800,000	0.00%
664	870-613	Radiological Preparedness Board	\$ 0	\$ 0		\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
4A3	870-614	Grade Crossing Protection Devices-St	\$ 900,957	\$ 520,640	\$1,146,424	\$ 1,311,986	14.44%	\$ 1,349,757	2.88%
4L8	870-617	Pipeline Safety-State	\$ 140,589	\$ 146,098	\$143,321	\$ 177,323	23.72%	\$ 187,621	5.81%
4S6	870-618	Hazardous Material Registration	\$ 499,058	\$ 385,578	\$319,363	\$ 449,927	40.88%	\$ 464,325	3.20%
4T1	870-619	Hazardous Wastes Background Investi	\$ 0	----		----	N/A	----	N/A
4U8	870-620	Civil Forfeitures	\$ 168,674	\$ 192,055	\$219,554	\$ 269,426	22.72%	\$ 284,986	5.78%
4S6	870-621	Hazardous Materials Base State Regist	\$ 298,845	\$ 257,745	\$339,455	\$ 364,240	7.30%	\$ 373,346	2.50%
State Special Revenue Fund Group Total			\$ 3,718,225	\$ 2,823,012	\$ 3,548,911	\$ 3,836,741	8.11%	\$ 3,941,245	2.72%

FY 2002 - 2003 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

<i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i>	<i>FY 1999:</i>	<i>FY 2000:</i>	<i>FY 2001:</i>	<i>FY 2002 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2001 to 2002:</i>	<i>FY 2003 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2002 to 2003:</i>
<i>PUC Public Utilities Commission of Ohio</i>							
4G4 870-616 Base State Registration Program	\$ 5,989,159	\$ 6,026,204	\$5,884,925	\$ 6,500,000	10.45%	\$ 6,500,000	0.00%
Agency Fund Group Total	\$ 5,989,159	\$ 6,026,204	\$ 5,884,925	\$ 6,500,000	10.45%	\$ 6,500,000	0.00%
R20 870-610 Motor Carrier Refunds	\$ 34,088	\$ 0		\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
Holding Account Redistribution Fund Group Total	\$ 34,088	\$ 0	----	\$ 0	N/A	\$ 0	N/A
<i>Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Total</i>	\$ 40,067,825	\$ 41,850,474	\$ 44,640,665	\$ 53,930,590	20.81%	\$ 53,588,268	-0.63%