

Executive

As Passed by the House

As Reported by Senate Finance

PUCCD4 Minority and Bilingual Community Outreach

R.C. 4905.98

No provision.

Requires public utilities to do their best to include minority and bilingual consumer outreach.

No provision.

Fiscal effect: None

PUCCD5 Power Siting Board Regulation Exemption

R.C. 4906.01

No provision.

No provision.

Exempts, from regulation by the Power Siting Board (namely the requirement to obtain a certificate for construction), manufacturing facilities that create byproducts that may be used in the generation of electricity as defined by the Power Siting Board. Clarifies that certain utility lines and facilities exempt from Power Siting Board regulation under current law are as defined by the Power Siting Board.

Fiscal effect: Potential decrease in expenditures from and fee revenue to the Power Siting Board Fund (Fund 5610) in the State Special Revenue Fund Group.

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PUCCD6 Community-voicemail Service Pilot Program Repeal

No provision.

No provision.

Sections: 365.10, 620.51, 620.52, 620.53, R.C. 4927.17

Repeals the Community-voicemail Service Pilot Program and the Community-voicemail Service Pilot Program Fund created by Sub. S.B. 162 of the 128th General Assembly. Requires assessments made under the program to cease and the Public Utilities Commission to refund them, without interest and within 60 days of the effective date of the section, to the local exchange carriers that paid them.

Fiscal effect: Reduces PUCO expenditures by an amount up to \$500,000 over a two year period for SSR appropriation item 870632, Community - Voicemail Service, thereby allowing a refund of assessments in a corresponding amount.

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PUCCD2 Utility Radiological Safety Board Assessments

Section: 506.10

Specifies, absent contractual agreement, the maximum amounts that may be assessed against each nuclear electric utility under R.C. 4937.05 on behalf of four state agencies and deposited into the specified funds as follows:

- (1) \$131,785 in each fiscal year to the Utility Radiological Safety Fund (Fund 4E40) used by the Department of Agriculture;
- (2) \$930,525 in FY 2012 and \$930,576 in FY 2013 to the Radiation Emergency Response Fund (Fund 6100) used by the Department of Health;
- (3) \$279,838 in FY 2012 and \$279,966 in FY 2013 to the ER Radiological Safety Fund (Fund 6440) used by the Environmental Protection Agency; and
- (4) \$1,415,945 in each fiscal year to the Emergency Response Plan Fund (Fund 6570) used by the Department of Public Safety.

Fiscal effect: Less than \$2.8 million in each fiscal year will be assessed against nuclear electric utilities and made available to the four state agencies for their statutory purposes.

Section: 506.10

Same as the Executive.

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PUCCD3 Reallocation of Funds Resulting from Reduced OCC Appropriation

No provision.

R.C. *4909.15, 4928.18*

Requires the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to recalculate public utilities' rates, for utilities that do not pay the minimum Office of Consumers' Counsel (OCC) assessment, by the end of 2011 for closed rate cases, based on payments of assessments calculated in accordance with the reduced appropriation amount for the OCC contained in the bill.

Fiscal effect: Under existing law, OCC operations are funded by assessments on regulated utilities, with the amount assessed determined by the amount appropriated to GSF item 053601. The appropriation to this line item is reduced by about \$4.4 million (51%) from FY 2011 to FY 2012. This provision ensures that the reduction in the amount appropriated is returned to the customers of utilities affected by the provision, rather than being retained by the utility.

Section: *749.10*

Replaces the House provision with a provision that requires instead that the PUCO, by the end of 2011, determine appropriate methods for the distribution of the reduced OCC appropriation contained in the bill to the benefit of utility customers, and requires the Commission to implement the methodology in a timely manner.

Fiscal effect: Same as the House, except that the mechanism for refunding the amounts to utility customers is left to the PUCO to determine; also the OCC appropriation in the Senate version of the bill implies that customers should receive \$7.2 million over the biennium rather than \$4.4 million per year.

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Property Taxes and Transfer Fees

TAXCD39	Qualified Energy Project Exemption
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No provision.

No provision.

R.C. 5727.75

Extends by three years the deadline by which the owner of a qualified energy project must submit a property tax exemption application, begin construction, and place into service an energy facility using renewable energy resources or advanced energy technology to qualify for an ongoing real and tangible personal property tax exemption.

Fiscal effect: May decrease property tax revenues for local taxing authorities where projects are located and may increase annual service payments in lieu of taxes for the local taxing jurisdictions where projects are located.