

Executive

In House Finance and Appropriations

OCCCD2

Prohibition of OCC Advocacy Against Competitive Markets

No provision.

R.C. 4911.02

Prohibits the Consumers' Counsel from advocating or promoting positions contrary to the development of competitive markets in Ohio, including state policies pertaining to natural gas.

**Fiscal effect: None**

OCCCD1

Prohibition of OCC Call Center

No provision.

R.C. 4911.021, 4927.17, 4928.10, 4929.22

Prohibits the Office of Consumers' Counsel (OCC) from operating a call center for consumer complaints, and requires such calls to be forwarded to the Public Utilities Commission. Removes requirements that utilities include OCC's contact information on customer bills and notices.

**Fiscal effect: Reduces expenditures within GSF Fund 5F50 appropriation item 053601 by an amount between \$700,000 and \$900,000.**

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PUCCD3

Recalculation of Rates for 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.**