
Executive

PUCCD4 Regulation of intermodal equipment and records production

R.C. *4905.81, 4923.04, 4923.041*

Grants the Public Utilities Commission (PUCO) authority to regulate the safety of intermodal equipment providers, specifically by allowing PUCO to adopt rules governing the use and interchange of intermodal equipment. Enables PUCO to compel any officer, agent, or employee of such providers to produce all books, contracts, records, and documents that relate to compliance with motor-carrier-safety law.

Fiscal effect: None.

PUCCD2 Pipeline safety forfeitures

R.C. *4905.95*

Increases the forfeitures that the Public Utilities Commission may assess upon pipeline operators from \$100,000 to \$200,000 for each day of each violation or noncompliance. Increases the aggregate limit for any related series of such forfeitures from \$1 million to \$2 million.

Fiscal effect: Updating the maximum pipeline safety forfeitures consistent with federal law may increase forfeiture revenues to the GRF depending on the incidence of pipeline safety violations.

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PUCCD5 Basic local exchange service changes

R.C. *4927.10, 4905.71, 4927.01, 4927.02, 4927.07,
4927.101, 4927.11, 4927.15, Sections 363.20,
363.30, 749.10*

- (1) Permits an incumbent local exchange carrier to withdraw or abandon basic local exchange service (BLES) in an exchange area if the carrier were to withdraw the interstate-access component of its BLES in accordance with an order of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Requires a carrier withdrawing or abandoning BLES to give 120 days' notice to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) and affected customers.
- (2) Permits a residential customer who will be unable to obtain reasonable and comparatively priced voice service upon the withdrawal or abandonment of BLES to petition PUCO to find a willing provider of reasonable and comparatively priced voice service, and permits a collaborative process at PUCO to identify customers in this position.
- (3) Requires PUCO to define "reasonable and comparatively priced voice service."
- (4) Permits PUCO to order the withdrawing or abandoning carrier to provide reasonable and comparatively priced voice service to an affected customer for one year if no willing provider is identified after a PUCO investigation. Permits the order to be extended for an additional year if such voice service is still not available to the customer. Permits the PUCO to order the withdrawing or abandoning carrier to continue to provide such voice service to the affected customer, perhaps no longer at the customer's residence, for an unspecified length of time once the two 12-month periods lapse if no alternative reasonable and comparatively priced voice service is available.
- (5) Requires PUCO to establish a collaborative process with incumbent local exchange carriers, competitive local exchange carriers providing BLES, the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, and other invited members to focus on the Internet-protocol-network transition process and related consumer issues.
- (6) Ensures that an incumbent local exchange carrier that withdraws or abandons BLES under the bill would still be subject to PUCO's oversight of the rates, terms, and conditions for carrier access, pole attachments, and conduit occupancy. States that the bill does not affect any contractual obligation, including agreements under the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, as amended, or any right or obligation under federal law or rules.
- (8) Requires PUCO to adopt rules that are consistent with the FCC rules to implement the above mentioned changes.

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(7) Requires that DPF appropriation 870622, Utility and Railroad Regulation, must be used in part by PUCO to plan the transition, consistent with the directives and policies of the FCC, from the current public switched telephone network to an internet-protocol network. Requires that the transition plan include a review of statutes or rules that may prevent or delay an appropriate transition. Requires PUCO to report to the General Assembly on any further action required to be taken by the General Assembly to ensure a successful and timely transition.

Fiscal effect: None.

PUCCD1 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) \$125,000 in each fiscal year to the Utility Radiological Safety Fund (Fund 4E40) used by the Department of Agriculture;
- (2) \$1,086,098 in each fiscal year to the Radiation Emergency Response Fund (Fund 6100) used by the Department of Health;
- (3) \$298,304 in FY 2016 and \$303,174 in FY 2017 to the ER Radiological Safety Fund (Fund 6440) used by the Environmental Protection Agency; and
- (4) \$1,200,000 in each fiscal year to the Emergency Response Plan Fund (Fund 6570) used by the Department of Public Safety.

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