

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio			Main Operating Appropriations Bill H.B. 96
Executive	As Passed By House	As Passed By Senate	As Reported By Conference Committee
PUCCD15 Next Generation 9-1-1 access fee allocation			
No provision.	No provision.	R.C. 128.54 Revises the next generation 9-1-1 access fee allocation by: (1) increasing the allocation to the 9-1-1 Government Assistance Fund from 72% to 81.33%; (2) reducing the allocations to the 9-1-1 Administrative Fund from 1% to .67%, to the 9-1-1 Program Fund from 2% to 1.33%, and to the Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund from 25% to 16.67%. Fiscal effect: No effect on the overall fee revenue. The total appropriation for the four 9-1-1 fund related ALLs amounts to \$50.2 million in FY 2026 and \$47.3 million in FY 2027.	R.C. 128.54 Same as the Senate. Fiscal effect: Same as the Senate.
PUCCD2 Rehearing request			
R.C. 4903.10 Stipulates that a final order issued by PUCO is affirmed by operation of law if PUCO does not affirm, abrogate, or modify the original order within 150 days of the date it granted a rehearing request. Fiscal effect: None.	R.C. 4903.10 Same as the Executive, except the deadline is reduced from 150 days to 90 days. Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.	R.C. 4903.10 Same as the House. Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.	R.C. 4903.10 Same as the House. Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.

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<div> <div>PUCCD6</div> <div>Electric light company</div> </div>			
<div> <div>R.C.</div> <div>4905.03</div> </div>			
Excludes a facility for the production of electricity from being an "electric light company" in the public utilities law if it is located on a customer-generator's premises or, for mercantile customers, within the certified territory of the electric utility providing service to the mercantile customer, operates in parallel with the electric utility's transmission and distribution facilities, and is primarily intended to offset part or all of the customer-generator's or mercantile customer's electricity requirements.	No provision.	No provision.	No provision.
Fiscal effect: Potential savings in PUCO's administrative costs through decreased regulatory oversight and compliance requirements.			
<div> <div>PUCCD14</div> <div>Electric distribution utility behind the meter electric generation service</div> </div>			
No provision.	No provision.	<div> <div>R.C.</div> <div>4905.311</div> </div>	<div> <div>R.C.</div> <div>4905.311</div> </div>
		Allows an EDU to supply behind the meter electric generation service if an application for any behind the meter electric generation facilities intended to be used to supply such service was filed with PUCO under former law no later than March 31, 2025.	Same as the Senate.
		Fiscal effect: None.	Fiscal effect: Same as the Senate.

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PUCCD17 Power Siting Board written report			
No provision.	No provision.	R.C. 4906.07 Reduces the time within which the chairperson of the Power Siting Board (PSB) must submit a written report to PSB and the applicant from not less than fifteen days prior to the date the application is set for a hearing to not less than five days prior to that hearing date. Fiscal effect: None.	R.C. 4906.07 Same as the Senate. Fiscal effect: Same as the Senate.
PUCCD11 Boat trailer exemption			
No provision.	No provision.	R.C. 4921.01, 4923.01 Exempts, from the definitions of "motor vehicle" and "for-hire motor carrier", any trailer used exclusively to transport a single boat between a place of storage and a marina, or a place that is in or around a marina, not more than 10 miles apart, and that is drawn or towed no faster than 25 mph. The boat trailer cannot exceed 26,001 pounds to qualify for the exemption. Fiscal effect: Minimal. Under current law, boat trailers pay \$20 to \$30 per year in intrastate motor carrier vehicle fees.	R.C. 4921.01, 4923.01 Same as the Senate. Fiscal effect: Same as the Senate.
PUCCD9 Broadband internet access service exempt from regulation			
No provision.	R.C. 4927.01, 4927.22, Section 820.20 Exempts broadband internet access service from PUCO regulation.	R.C. 4927.01, 4927.22, Section 820.20 Same as the House.	R.C. 4927.01, 4927.22, Section 820.20 Same as the House.

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No provision.	Prohibits a state agency, commission, or political subdivision from enacting, adopting, or enforcing any provision having the force or effect of law that regulates or has the effect of regulating broadband internet access service.	Same as the House.	Same as the House.
No provision.	Provides that the above prohibition does not (1) restrict any authority delegated to PUCO or any state agency to administer a state or federal grant program; or (2) restrict the application of a law relating to consumer protection and fair competition concerning broadband internet access service.	Same as the House.	Same as the House.
No provision.	No provision.	Provides that the prohibition against the regulation of broadband internet access service does not restrict the authority of a political subdivision to manage access to and use of any public way or public rights-of-way.	Same as the Senate.
No provision.	No provision.	Eliminates the prohibition against a political subdivision enacting a law or regulation governing the entry of any broadband internet access service.	Same as the Senate.
	Fiscal effect: None.	Fiscal effect: Same as the House.	Fiscal effect: Same as the House.

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PUCCD4 Net metering systems			
R.C. 4928.01, 4928.67			
Modifies the definition of "net metering system" to include facilities that use fully dispatchable green energy as fuel and facilities not located on the customer-generator's premises but within the certified territory of the electric utility serving a mercantile customer.	No provision.	No provision.	No provision.
Requires mercantile customers with off-site net metering systems to be billed for the net electricity supplied by the utility if the electricity provided exceeds the electricity generated and fed back by the customer-generator during the billing period, and for distribution and transmission services for all electricity used, according to the rates and charges in the utility's tariffs.	No provision.	No provision.	No provision.
Fiscal effect: Potential increase in administrative costs to regulate modified net metering systems.			

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PUCCD5 Competitive retail electric service state policy

R.C. 4928.02

Modifies the existing competitive retail electric service state policy by encouraging the development of customer-sited generation and expanding the current policy to ensure that a customer-generator or owner can market and deliver the electricity it produces to apply to marketing and delivering that electricity through power purchase agreements or other contractual agreements.	No provision.	No provision.	No provision.
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Fiscal effect: None.

PUCCD8 Publicly available EV charging stations

R.C. 4933.51, 4933.53, 4933.54, 4933.55, 4933.57, 4933.59

No provision.	Prohibits an electric distribution utility (EDU) from owning or operating a publicly available electric vehicle (EV) charging station, with certain exceptions regarding EDU funding, EDU affiliate or subsidiary ownership/operation, and EDU ownership in an area of last resort.	No provision.	No provision.
No provision.	Establishes requirements and procedures regarding EDU ownership of a publicly available EV charging station in an area of last resort.	No provision.	No provision.

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No provision.	Permits any person to notify PUCO of intent to provide a publicly available EV charging station within a ten-mile radius of the EDU-proposed location, and that it intends to request make-ready infrastructure from the EDU.	No provision.	No provision.
No provision.	Prohibits EDU revenues for providing electric distribution service from, directly or indirectly, subsidizing investments in the ownership or operation of EV charging stations, with certain exceptions. Fiscal effect: None.	No provision.	No provision.
PUCCD18 Bypassable cost recovery mechanism			R.C. 4928.05
No provision.	No provision.	No provision.	Changes from "nonbypassable" to "bypassable" the cost recovery mechanism required by H.B. 15 of the 136th General Assembly relating to transmission, ancillary, congestion, or any related service for a standard service offer (SSO) that PUCO must adopt for each electric distribution utility providing an SSO. Fiscal effect: None.

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PUCCD16 CRES supplier variable rate contract cross reference fix			
		R.C. 4928.102	R.C. 4928.102
No provision.	No provision.	Corrects a cross referencing error in the law imposing certain requirements when a competitive retail electric service supplier offers a residential or small commercial customer a contract that converts to a variable rate.	Same as the Senate.
		Fiscal effect: None.	Fiscal effect: Same as the Senate.
PUCCD3 Customer sited green energy resource			
R.C. 4928.47			
Allows an electric distribution utility to enter into an agreement with a mercantile customer or group of mercantile customers to construct a customer sited "green energy resource" in Ohio (in addition to customer sited renewable energy resources allowed under current law).	No provision.	No provision.	No provision.
Fiscal effect: Potential indirect revenue increases as the inclusion of natural gas in green energy resources could boost development, leading to higher tax revenue.			
PUCCD7 Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) Rider creation and Universal Service Rider repeal			
R.C. 4928.52, 4928.53, 4928.54, 4928.542, 4928.543, 4928.544, 4928.545	R.C. 4928.52, 4928.53, 4928.54, 4928.542, 4928.543, 4928.544, 4928.545		R.C. 4928.52, 4928.53, 4928.54, 4928.542, 4928.543, 4928.544, 4928.545
Replaces the Universal Service rider with the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) rider on retail electric distribution rates as determined by PUCO.	Same as the Executive.	No provision.	Same as the Executive.

Executive	As Passed By House	As Passed By Senate	As Reported By Conference Committee
Requires the PIPP rider to recover the prudently incurred costs of providing the PIPP program for each electric distribution utility (EDU), the EDUs' allocated shares for funding the low-income customer assistance programs administered by ODJFS, according to each electric distribution utility's annual distribution service revenues, and any amount necessary to fund administrative costs of the low-income customer assistance programs.	Same as the Executive.	No provision.	Same as the Executive.
Requires each EDU's allocation to include a separately designated allocation equal to the EDU's share of an amount not to exceed \$15 million annually for funding the consumer education program and requires each EDU to remit to ODJFS the EDU's allocated share for the consumer education program and its administrative costs of the low-income customer assistance programs by June 30 each year.	Same as the Executive.	No provision.	Same as the Executive.
Requires PUCO to administer the PIPP rider and perform periodic audits of each EDU's PIPP rider, and requires PUCO to adopt rules for the administration of the PIPP rider and to cooperate with, and provide assistance to, the ODJFS Director regarding low-income customer assistance program administration.	Same as the Executive.	No provision.	Same as the Executive.

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Requires PUCO (instead of DEV) to establish a competitive procurement process for the supply of competitive retail electric service for PIPP program customers and to aggregate program customers for this purpose.	Same as the Executive.	No provision.	Same as the Executive.
Fiscal effect: Potential increase in costs for ODJFS and PUCO and potential decrease in costs for DEV, both likely minimal. The Universal Service Fund (Fund 5M40) collected over \$357 million in FY 2024. Costs for agencies for this purpose are reimbursed by the PIPP rider, paid by electric consumers. Potential minimal change in costs of electricity for the state and local governments as ratepayers.	Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.		Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.
PUCCD13 Heat maps		R.C. 4928.86	R.C. 4928.86
No provision.	No provision.	Specifies that each public utility, rather than "entity," that owns or control a transmission facility in Ohio, and is not a regional transmission organization, must create a heat map that includes certain information.	Same as the Senate.

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No provision.	No provision.	<p>Repeals provisions of law that explicitly exempt municipally-owned electric utilities and electric cooperatives from the requirement that public utilities create a heat map.</p> <p>Fiscal effect: Potential administrative costs for local governments that operate municipal electric utilities or electric cooperatives due to newly imposed heat map requirements.</p>	<p>Same as the Senate.</p> <p>Fiscal effect: Same as the Senate.</p>
PUCCD10 Rural electric company and energy company tangible personal property tax			
No provision.	No provision.	<p>R.C. 5727.111</p> <p>Clarifies a provision of recently enacted utility legislation relating to the tangible personal property tax assessment rate for a rural electric company's or energy company's new, repowered, or converted taxable production and new energy conversion equipment.</p> <p>Fiscal effect: None.</p>	<p>R.C. 5727.111</p> <p>Same as the Senate.</p> <p>Fiscal effect: Same as the Senate.</p>

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Other Education Provisions			
EDUCD116 Transportation network company services for student transportation			
	R.C. 4925.11, 4925.12, 4925.13		
No provision.	Authorizes a board of education or governing authority of a school to enter into a contract with a transportation network company for the transportation of unaccompanied students if the company meets certain conditions.	No provision.	No provision.
No provision.	Authorizes a parent, guardian, resource caregiver, or person over 21 acting in loco parentis of a minor to request an eligible TNC to provide transportation for a minor child unaccompanied by that parent, guardian, or person.	No provision.	No provision.
No provision.	Establishes parameters for company qualifications, driver qualifications, vehicle qualifications and inspections, and active GPS- monitoring during the transportation.	No provision.	No provision.
Fiscal effect: Permissive.			

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JFSCD32	Electric Partnership Plan Fund						
R.C.	4928.51, 4928.66, 5117.07	R.C.	4928.51, 4928.66, 5117.07	R.C.	4928.51, 4928.66, 5117.07	R.C.	4928.51, 4928.66, 5117.07
Replaces the Universal Service Fund with the Electric Partnership Plan (EPP) Fund, which is to consist of all revenues remitted to the ODJFS Director (instead of the DEV Director as under current law), to provide funding for the low-income customer assistance program and the administrative costs of the low-income customer assistance programs and the consumer education program.		Same as the Executive.		Same as the Executive, but makes the following changes (1) requires all revenues to be remitted to the DEV Director (instead of ODJFS Director) and (2) removes the requirement that the EPP Fund be used to pay the administrative costs of the low-income customer assistance program.		Same as the Executive.	
Requires the EPP fund to consist of (1) amounts allocated to each electric distribution utility (EDU) for consumer education programs and (2) any amount necessary to fund administrative costs of the low-income customer assistance programs.		Same as the Executive.		Same as the Executive, but removes the requirement that the EPP fund consist of any amount necessary to fund administrative costs of the low-income customer assistance programs.		Same as the Executive.	
Fiscal effect: The budget appropriates \$176.2 million in new Fund 5M40 ALI 6006B2 Low Income Energy Assistance, in FY 2027, under ODJFS.		Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.		Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive, but the funding is provided under DEV.		Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.	
JFSCD31	Low-income customer assistance program administration						
R.C.	4928.53, 4928.55, 4928.56, 4928.75, 4928.43; Section 525.20	R.C.	4928.53, 4928.55, 4928.56, 4928.75, 4928.43; Section 525.20	R.C.	4928.55, 4928.56, 4928.75, 4928.43; Section 525.20	R.C.	4928.55, 4928.56, 4928.75, 4928.43; Section 525.20
Transfers administration of the following programs from the DEV Director to the ODJFS Director beginning July 1, 2026:		Same as the Executive.		Same as the Executive, with the following changes:		Same as the Executive.	

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(1) Low-income customer assistance programs (These programs include various Home Energy Assistance Programs, Home Weatherization Program, and the Targeted Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Program).	(1) Same as the Executive.	(1) No provision.	(1) Same as the Executive.
(2) Consumer education program.	(2) Same as the Executive.	(2) Same as the Executive.	(2) Same as the Executive.
(3) Electric Partnership Plan Fund (see JFSCD32).	(3) Same as the Executive.	(3) No provision.	(3) Same as the Executive.
(4) No provision.	(4) No provision.	(4) Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Program.	(4) No provision.
Requires the ODJFS Director to submit a federal waiver request to expend 25% of federal low-income Home Energy Assistance Programs funds from the Home Energy Assistance Block Grants for weatherization services.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive.
Requires that any business beginning before, but not completed by, July 1, 2027 within DEV that will be transferred with these programs must be completed in the same manner by ODJFS.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive (for the programs specified above).	Same as the Executive.
Permits DEV and ODJFS to jointly or separately enter into contracts with public or private entities for staff training and development to facilitate the transfer.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive (for the programs specified above).	Same as the Executive.

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Requires that by July 1, 2026, the DEV and ODJFS directors must develop a plan to implement the transfer of the programs’ duties and function, and the directors must enter a memorandum of understanding concerning the transfer.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive (for the programs specified above).	Same as the Executive.
Requires that all employees associated with these programs are transferred from DEV to ODJFS with the same positions and benefits by July 1, 2027. Permits ODJFS to establish, change, and abolish positions, as well as to assign, reassign, classify, reclassify, transfer, reduce, promote, or demote all employees not subject to collective bargaining. Permits ODJFS (or DEV, in the case of an employee transferred outside of ODJFS) to assign or reassign an exempt employee to a bargaining unit classification. Excludes the transfer of programs and employees under this section and the reassignment of certain functions and duties from appropriate subjects of collective bargaining.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive (for the programs specified above).	Same as the Executive.
Permits ODJFS, with approval of OBM, to establish a retirement incentive plan for transferred employees.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive (for the programs specified above).	Same as the Executive.
Requires all rules, orders, and determinations made or undertaken by the transferred programs to continue in effect until ODJFS modifies or rescinds them.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive (for the programs specified above).	Same as the Executive.

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Requires OBM to make budget and accounting changes to implement the transfer. Permits OBM to cancel or establish encumbrances or parts of encumbrances. Permits OBM to transfer appropriations between ODJFS and DEV.		Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive (for the programs specified above).	Same as the Executive.
Fiscal effect: The budget transfers funds to support these programs.		Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.	Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.	Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.
JFSCD33 Public Advisory Board				
R.C. 4928.58, 4928.63, 4928.62		R.C. 4928.58, 4928.63, 4928.62	R.C. 4928.58, 4928.63, 4928.62	R.C. 4928.58, 4928.63, 4928.62
Adds the ODJFS Director to the Public Advisory Board (replacing the DEV Director) and requires the Board to advise the ODJFS Director. Limits the Board's duties to advising the ODJFS Director regarding the low-income customer assistance programs.		Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive.
Repeals the Board duty to give advice regarding the Universal Service Fund and Rider and the Advanced Energy Program and Advanced Energy Fund. Eliminates reimbursements to Board members for expenses incurred for the Advanced Energy Program.		Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive.
Repeals Board powers and duties regarding economic development and stability, energy, and pollution matters in Ohio.		Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive.
Fiscal effect: Minimal.		Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.	Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.	Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.

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AUDCD2 Performance Audits			
Section: 223.20	Section: 223.20	Section: 223.20, 701.90	Section: 223.20, 701.90, 701.XXX
Requires that GRF ALI 070402, Performance Audits, be used to support costs for providing performance audits for local governments, school districts, state agencies, and colleges and universities that are not recovered through charges, including certain costs not recoverable under federal guidelines.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive.	Same as the Executive.
No provision.	Earmarks up to \$500,000 in FY 2026 under GRF ALI 070402, Performance Audits, to conduct a performance audit of indigent defense services within Ohio.	Same as the House.	Same as the House.
No provision.	Requires the AOS to review the challenges of the delivery of indigent defense services, including, but not limited to the costs, accounting, and payment processes of the Office of the Ohio Public Defender and at least five counties that represent each of the various indigent defense delivery methods in the state.	Same as the House.	Same as the House.
No provision.	Requires the audit to be completed and a report submitted to the President and Minority Leader of the Senate and to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of Representatives by August 1, 2026.	Same as the House, but requires the performance audit report on indigent defense services to be submitted by January 1, 2027.	Same as the Senate.
No provision.	No provision.	Requires the AOS to conduct a performance audit of the PUCO, including a review of the Ohio Power Siting Board, by May 1, 2027.	Same as the Senate.

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No provision.	No provision.	No provision.	Requires AOS to conduct a performance audit and a financial audit of the Ohio Judicial Conference and provide the results to the House Speaker and Senate President by December 31, 2026.