

Executive

As Reported By House Finance

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.

PUCCD6 Electric light company

R.C. 4905.03

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.

Fiscal effect: Potential savings in PUCO's administrative costs through decreased regulatory oversight and compliance requirements.

No provision.

PUCCD9 Broadband internet access service exempt from regulation

No provision.

No provision.

No provision.

R.C. 4927.01, 4927.22, Section 820.20

Exempts broadband internet access service from PUCO regulation.

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.

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.

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Fiscal effect: None.

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.

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.

Fiscal effect: Potential increase in administrative costs to regulate modified net metering systems.

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.

Fiscal effect: None.

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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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

Establishes requirements and procedures regarding EDU ownership of a publicly available EV charging station in an area of last resort.

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.

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.

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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 (that is, a ridesharing company like Uber or Lyft) for the transportation of unaccompanied students if the company meets certain conditions.

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.

Establishes parameters for company qualifications, driver qualifications, vehicle qualifications and inspections, and active GPS- monitoring during the transportation.

Fiscal effect: Permissive.

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JFSCD32 Electric Partnership Plan Fund

R.C. 4928.51, 4928.66, 5117.07

Replaces the Universal Service Fund with the Electric Partnership Plan (EPP) Fund to provide funding for the low-income customer assistance and consumer education programs.

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.

Fiscal effect: The budget appropriates \$176.2 million in new Fund 5M40 ALI 6006B2 Low Income Energy Assistance, in FY 2027, under ODJFS.

R.C. 4928.51, 4928.66, 5117.07

Same as the Executive.

Same as the Executive.

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

Transfers administration of the low-income customer assistance programs and the consumer education program beginning on July 1, 2026, and the energy efficiency and weatherization program from the DEV Director to the ODJFS Director.

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.

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.

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.

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.

R.C. 4928.53, 4928.55, 4928.56, 4928.75, 4928.43; Section 525.20

Same as the Executive.

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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.

Permits ODJFS, with approval of OBM, to establish a retirement incentive plan for transferred employees.

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.

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.

Fiscal effect: The budget establishes the following FY 2027 appropriations under ODJFS to support this transfer: \$180.0 million to Fund 3K90 ALI 6006B3, Home Energy Assistance Block Grant; \$45.0 million to Fund 3F10 ALI 6006B4, Home Weatherization Program; and \$44.0 million to Fund 3K90 ALI 6006B7, HEAP Weatherization (see also JFSCD32).

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

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.

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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.

Repeals Board powers and duties regarding economic development and stability, energy, and pollution matters in Ohio.

Same as the Executive.

Fiscal effect: Minimal.

Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.