

Executive

As Reported By House Finance

PUCCD1 Commission office operating hours

R.C. 4901.10

Removes the requirement that the Public Utilities Commission office be open during specific business hours.

Fiscal effect: None.

R.C. 4901.10

Same as the Executive.

Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.

PUCCD2 Power Siting Board contract for expert or analyst

R.C. 4906.02

Allows the Ohio Power Siting Board to obtain the services of outside experts through contracts and fund the expense through certificate or amendment application fees imposed under existing law.

Fiscal effect: Potential increase in expenditures from DPF line item 870606, Power Siting Board. Any such increase would be funded by a corresponding increase in fee revenue.

R.C. 4906.02

Same as the Executive, but requires Controlling Board approval of these contracts.

Fiscal effect: Same as the Executive.

PUCCD3 Internet telephone directories

No provision.

No provision.

R.C. 4927.01, Section 749.10

Provides that an internet-accessible database of directory listings is a reasonable format for the telephone directory, required as part of a telephone company's basic local exchange service (BLES).

Requires a BLES provider that no longer offers a printed directory to provide reasonable customer notice of available options to obtain directory information.

Fiscal effect: None.

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OBMCD40 Utility Radiological Safety Board assessments

Section: 514.10

Specifies the maximum amounts, unless the agency and nuclear electric utility mutually agree to a higher amount by contract, that may be assessed against nuclear electric utilities under RC 4937.05 (B) (2) and deposited into the following funds:

\$101,130 in each of FY 2022 and FY 2023 to the Utility Radiological Safety Fund (Fund 4E40) used by the Department of Agriculture;

\$1,300,000 in each of FY 2022 and FY 2023 to the Radiation Emergency Response Fund (Fund 6100) used by the Department of Health;

\$325,370 in FY 2022 and \$332,287 in FY 2023 to the ER Radiological Safety Fund (Fund 6440) used by the Environmental Protection Agency; and

\$1,368,624 in FY 2022 and \$1,378,304 in FY 2023 to the Emergency Response Plan Fund (Fund 6570) used by the Department of Public Safety.

Section: 514.10

Same as the Executive.

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DEVCD40 Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program

R.C. 122.401, 122.40, 122.403 through 122.4077; 133.13, 188.01 through 188.30; 303.251, 505.881, and 727.01; 4926.01 through 4926.60

No provision.

Does the following to address broadband expansion and infrastructure (these provisions are identical to those in H.B. 2 of the 134th G.A., As Passed by the House. See the LSC Bill Analysis for more details of these provisions at <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-documents?id=GA134-HB-2>).

(1) No provision.

(1) Creates the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program and the Ohio Broadband Expansion Program Authority to award program grants to fund the construction of broadband projects in unserved areas of the state.

(2) No provision.

(2) Requires DEV to adopt rules for the grant program including rules for an application form and application procedures and procedures for periodic program grant disbursements. Requires DEV, in consultation with the Authority, to establish a weighted scoring system to evaluate and select applications for program grants and make it available on its website.

(3) No provision.

(3) Requires DEV to publish certain grant program and application information on its website. Requires DEV to accept, receive, and review applications for program grants and send completed applications to the Authority for review and award of program grant money for eligible projects.

(4) No provision.

(4) Requires up to 30% of the program grant to be disbursed before project construction begins, up to 60% of the program grant to be disbursed periodically over the course of the project construction according to DEV rules, and the remaining portion to be disbursed not later than 60 days after notification that

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(5) No provision.

construction is complete.

(5) Requires a broadband provider to construct last mile broadband infrastructure after receiving a program grant award.

(6) No provision.

(6) Permits a board of county commissioners, by resolution, to request DEV to solicit applications from broadband providers for program grants for eligible projects in the municipal corporations and townships of the county.

(7) No provision.

(7) Permits a challenging provider to challenge, in writing, all or part of a completed application for a program grant not later than 65 days (or longer if an extension is granted) after the close of the submission period (or extension period).

(8) No provision.

(8) Permits a broadband provider to enter into an arrangement to designate video service provider fees remitted by the provider for contribution towards an eligible project's broadband funding gap under certain circumstances.

(9) No provision.

(9) Permits a municipal corporation, county, or township to fund a portion of the broadband funding gap for an eligible project through a property tax assessment made by the municipal corporation, county, or township.

(10) No provision.

(10) Permits DEV to withhold payments for failure to meet at least the minimum broadband service speeds required under the bill until the speeds are achieved. Permits DEV to require the broadband provider to refund state and local government funds if the provider fails to cure the identified noncompliance.

(11) No provision.

(11) Requires each broadband provider that receives a program grant to submit progress and certain other reports.

(12) No provision.

(12) Requires the Authority to complete an annual report that evaluates the grant program's success on DEV's website and to

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(13) No provision.

provide the report to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1 each year.

(13) Expands the use of electric cooperative easements for the provision of broadband service and creates a process for addressing damages to servient estates (land burdened by an easement).

(14) No provision.

(14) Establishes a process for granting broadband providers, telecommunication service providers, video service providers, and wireless service providers access to electric cooperatives pole facilities through pole attachments.

Fiscal effect: The bill appropriates \$170.0 million in FY 2022 and \$20.0 million in FY 2023 under DPF Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program Fund (Fund 5XU0) line item 195567, Residential Broadband Expansion Grants, to awards grants under the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant Program. See also DEVCD41 and OBMCD39.

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Property Taxes and Transfer Fees

TAXCD50 Property tax exemption for qualified energy projects

No provision.

R.C. 5727.75

Extends, by two years, the deadline by which the owner or lessee of a qualified renewable energy project may apply for a property tax exemption.

Fiscal effect: Potential revenue losses to school districts and other political subdivisions, though revenue losses to counties are permissive in certain cases, as explained below. The provision applies to prospective renewable energy (e.g., wind and solar) facilities that will newly obtain the property tax exemption for the two-year period, tax year (TY) 2024-TY 2025. Once a renewable energy project qualifies for this certification, it is exempt from taxation in all ensuing tax years. Since this exemption was originally enacted in 2010, the Ohio Development Services Agency has certified more than 60 renewable energy projects. The property tax exemption applies to real and tangible personal property used by the energy facility. If the nameplate capacity of a qualified energy project is 20 megawatts (MW) or greater, the local board of county commissioners must approve its tax-exempt status. In return for this approval, the owner or lessee of an energy project must make a payment in lieu of taxes (or "PILOT") ranging between \$6,000 and \$9,000 per each MW of nameplate capacity.