

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

PSC 10/23/2017

LRB Number	17-4522/1	Introduction Number	SB-475	Estimate Type	Original
Description one-call system enforcement and other requirements, Public Service Commission authority regarding state energy policy, settlements between parties in Public Service Commission dockets, various public utility regulatory requirements, the regulation of utility facilities under a county construction site erosion control and storm water management zoning ordinance, granting rule-making authority, and providing a penalty					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, owners of transmission facilities are required to establish or designate a nonprofit organization to operate a statewide communication system to ensure excavation notifications are received and disseminated to the affected facility owner. Current law requires excavators to provide advance notice to the system and comply with other requirements. Transmission facility owners must take certain actions in response to the notices, including marking their facilities. These requirements are commonly referred to as "digger's hotline" requirements. Current law allows a court to require a person who willfully and knowingly violates the digger's hotline requirements to pay a forfeiture of \$2,000 for each violation.

SB-475 creates procedures for a seven-member panel at the one-call system to initially review complaints regarding violations of digger's hotline requirements. The bill specifies that complaints may be filed by certain entities affected by an alleged violation. If the panel, by majority vote, finds that there is probable cause that a violation has occurred it must either refer the complaint to the Public Service Commission (Commission) or allow the respondent to attend an educational course.

SB-475 establishes a process at the Commission for investigating and enforcing complaints referred by the panel at the one-call system. The Commission estimates that this process will have a fiscal impact, which will depend upon the number of complaints that are referred to the Commission. It is anticipated that while most of the workload could be absorbed by current staff, if the number of complaints exceeds current staff resources, an additional 1.0 FTE would be needed to handle this additional workload.

SB-475 also imposes duties on the regarding state energy policy and makes various other changes to the Commission's regulation of public utilities. Also, the bill creates settlement requirements in Commission dockets. Finally, the bill affects the treatment of certain utility facilities under county construction site erosion control and storm water management zoning ordinances.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

indeterminate