Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session

☑ Original ☐ Updated	Corrected	Supplem	ental				
LRB Number 17-2042/1	Introduction Number	er SB-049					
Description the information technology block grant program, the broadband expansion grant program, waiving certain fees and appraisals, and making appropriations							
Fiscal Effect							
Appropriations Reve	rease Existing to absorbenues	se Costs - May b orb within agency Yes use Costs					
Permissive Mandatory Perm 2. Decrease Costs 4. Decr	Affected Affected Towns of the Country of the Count	ment Units I vns	<u></u>				
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations							
☐ GPR ☐ FED ☐ PRO ☐ PRS ☒ SEG ☐ SEGS							
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature		Date				
PSC/ Sarah Klein (608) 266-3587	Sarah Klein (608) 266-3587 2/27/2		2/27/2017				

Fiscal Estimate Narratives PSC 2/27/2017

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Description						
the information technology block grant program, the broadband expansion grant program, waiving certain						
fees and appraisals, and making appropriations						

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

SB 49 increases the amount of money available for broadband expansion grants, adds an additional priority factor for the Commission to consider when awarding grants, adds three specific issues that the Commission should also consider in its evaluation of grant applications, and provides additional definition of terms used in the Broadband expansion grant statute. The bill also eliminates the \$1.5 million cap on broadband grants in a fiscal year.

The fiscal changes would make \$11 million available for broadband expansion grants in the current fiscal year. This would be a continuing appropriation, and any unused funds would transfer to the broadband grant account for FY 2018. The bill would permit the Commission to schedule a grant competition soon after the bill is enacted, and would also give the Commission the option of conducting more than one grant competition during FY 2018 to address the demand for broadband service.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

SB 49 will likely result in an increase in the number of broadband grant applications submitted in each fiscal year, and also increase the amount of an individual broadband grant award on average. The bill also adjusts the weight that the Commission should assign to certain information included in a grant application. The bill does not create additional workload for the Commission unless the Commission opts to schedule more than one grant competition in FY 2018 or 2019. The Commission would be able to accommodate the changes proposed in SB 49 using existing staff resources.