

Public Utilities Commission

FY 2016 Revised
FY 2017 Recommended
FY 2017 – FY 2021 Capital

Staff Presentation
March 22, 2016

Structure

Single agency with two distinct regulatory bodies:

- The Public Utilities Commission (Commission)
- The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (Division)

Commission

- Three Commissioners
 - Appointed by the Governor to 6 year terms
- Quasi-judicial tribunal with jurisdiction, powers, and duties to implement and enforce utility standards of conduct
- Holds investigations and hearings involving rates, tariffs, tolls, and utilities' charges

Commission

	First Appointed	Number of Appointments	Current Term Expires
Margaret Curran, Chairperson	March 2013	1	March 1, 2019
Paul Roberti, Member	March 2009	1	March 1, 2015
Herbert DeSimone, Member	March 2013	1	March 1, 2017

Division

- One Administrator
 - Appointed by the Governor to 6 year term
- Enforces Commission rules and regulations
- Exercises jurisdiction, supervision, powers, and duties not specifically assigned to the Commission
- Jurisdiction over common carriers (taxi and car services) and cable television

Division

- Mandatory party in all utility dockets
- Defender of RI rate payers before federal regulatory agencies
 - Federal Communications Commission
 - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Assessment Against Utilities

Rhode Island General Law §39-1-23

- Administrator of the Division determines Agency's expenses for coming fiscal year
- 100% of expenses are assessed amongst the state's regulated utilities
 - Utilities with gross state revenues of under \$0.1 million are exempt

Summary by Source

	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Governor	FY 2017 Change to Enacted
Federal Funds	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.0
Restricted Receipts	8.6	8.6	8.8	0.2
Total	\$8.7	\$8.7	\$8.9	\$0.2

In millions

Summary by Category

<i>(In millions)</i>	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Governor	FY 2017 Change to Enacted
Salaries & Benefits	\$6.0	\$6.0	\$6.3	\$0.3
Contracted Services	1.7	1.7	1.7	(0.0)
Operations	0.9	0.9	0.9	(0.0)
Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Capital	0.1	0.1	0.1	(0.0)
Total	\$8.7	\$8.7	\$8.9	\$0.2

Personnel

Full-Time Positions	FTEs	Change to Enacted
Enacted Authorized	50.0	-
FY 2016 Governor Revised	50.0	-
FY 2017 Request	52.0	2.0
FY 2017 Governor	51.0	1.0
FY 2015 Average Filled	44.6	(5.4)
Filled as of March 5th	47.0	(3.0)

Personnel

FY 2017 Recommendation includes:

- \$6.3 million
 - \$0.1 million from federal funds
 - \$6.2 million from restricted receipts
- 51.0 full-time equivalent positions
 - 1.0 more than authorized
 - 11.0 positions for Commission
 - 40.0 positions for Division

Personnel

- Recommendation includes new requested Division senior legal counsel
 - Represent Division in termination proceedings and Supreme Court appeals of formal decisions
 - Office of Attorney General obligated to represent Division – has declined to represent on residential termination and billing disputes

Personnel

- Governor does not recommend requested consumer agent
 - Requested to provide managerial oversight in consumer section
 - In FY 2015, experienced 44.2% increase in consumer complaints over FY 2014
 - CY 2014 – CY 2015 section received approx. 9,200 termination requests from utilities
 - Consumer complaints and termination requests must be reviewed by consumer section staff

Public Utilities Reserve Account

- Governor recommends \$1.1 million
 - Investigation and hearing expenses for rate cases and other filings

Fiscal Year	Enacted Amount	Actual Expenditures
2015	\$ 1,131,104	\$ 351,734
2014	1,131,104	419,891
2013	1,131,104	574,186
2012	1,131,104	380,824

Expert Testimony

- Governor recommends \$0.4 million
 - Consultant services associated with renewable energy standard
 - Other consultant services

Fiscal Year	Enacted Amount	Actual Expenditures
2015	\$ 368,737	\$ 107,274
2014	432,847	128,402
2013	432,847	133,381
2012	432,847	60,991

Other Operations

Governor recommends requested \$1.1 million for FY 2016 and FY 2017

- Includes general office expenses, building maintenance, and staff training and travel
- \$15,001 more than FY 2016 enacted
 - Computers and Information Technology purchases to replace outdated systems

Reporting Requirements

- 2013 Assembly enacted legislation requiring OMB to prepare, review and inventory all reports filed with Assembly
 - Report presented to Assembly as part of budget submission annually
- Required to submit 3 reports - timely
 - Rate case summary (biannual)
 - State renewable energy standard (annual)
 - Voltage detection and repair program (annual)

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