State Corporation Commission 2025 General Assembly Session State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: HB2621 ER Patron: Ballard

Bill Title: Phase I Utilities; securitized asset costs.

Bill Summary: Authorizes Appalachian Power to petition the State Corporation Commission for a financing order for securitized asset costs, as defined in the bill. The bill creates the securitized asset cost charge and provides that the revenues generated by this charge, known as securitized asset cost property, are a property right that can be transferred and pledged as security for the securitized asset cost bonds. The bill establishes the procedures for creating, perfecting, and enforcing the security interest in securitized asset cost property.

The bill also prohibits rate increases for Appalachian Power during the months of November through February and prohibits rate adjustment clauses from taking effect on customer bills between the months of November through February. The bill prohibits Appalachian Power from charging a residential customer any interest or late fees between July 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, and from charging a residential customer any reconnection fees between July 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026. The bill also provides that in any rate proceeding for Appalachian Power, the State Corporation Commission shall include an invitation for public comment. This bill incorporates HB 1588.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No. Items Impacted: None

Explanation: Not Applicable

Fiscal Summary: The Commission will require the services of a consultant with expertise in financing.

General Fund Expenditure Impact: None

Nongeneral Fund Expenditure Impact: None

Position Impact: None

Fiscal Analysis: The fiscal impact estimate is final. The work required of this bill involves analyzing, monitoring and reporting information to the State Corporation Commission (Commission) about a financing order if filed by a Phase I Utility (Appalachian Power). Based on similar work involving a financing order for securitization recently performed by a financial consultant the estimated cost is up to \$400,000. The definition of "Financing costs" in the bill includes "Any costs incurred by the Commission for any outside consultants or counsel retained in connection with the securitization of securitized asset costs." The Commission is eligible to be reimbursed for the cost of a financial consultant. A budget amendment is not necessary.

Other: None