

JBC Staff Fiscal Analysis Senate Appropriations Committee

Concerning the continuation of the public utilities commission, and, in connection therewith, implementing recommendations in the 2025 sunset report by the department of regulatory agencies and making an appropriation.

Prime Sponsors:

Representatives Duran; Willford
Senators Rodriguez; Cutter

Date Prepared:

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JBC Analyst:

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303-866-2062

Fiscal Impacts

Appropriation Already Added to Bill, Amendment in Packet

TABOR Impact

Fiscal Note Status

The most recent Legislative Council Staff Revised Fiscal Note (attached) reflects the fiscal impact of the bill as of 05/10/2026.

Update: Fiscal impact has changed due to amendment adopted after LCS Fiscal Note was prepared.

The Senate Finance Committee Report (05/11/2026) includes amendments to the bill which reduce outyear expenditures related to local government siting decision appealed to the PUC. Legislative Council Staff and JBC Staff agree on this fiscal impact.

Amendments in This Packet

J.002 Staff-prepared appropriation amendment

Current Appropriations Clause in Bill

The bill includes an appropriation clause that reflects the introduced bill. It includes \$328,958 cash funds appropriated to the Department of Regulatory Agencies, of which \$253,958 is reappropriated to the Department of Law. However, several amendments were adopted by the House during Second Reading that have changed the fiscal impact of the bill.

Description of Amendments in This Packet

J.002

Staff amendment **J.002** (attached) strikes the existing appropriations clause and appropriates a total of \$298,448 cash funds to the Department of Regulatory Agencies for FY 2026-27, including \$75,000 from the Public Utilities Commission Motor Carrier Fund and \$223,448 from the Public Utilities Commission Fixed Utilities Fund. Of this amount, \$49,688 is reappropriated to the Department of Law. The appropriation reflects 1.6 FTE for the Department of Regulatory Agencies and 0.2 FTE for the Department of Law.

Points to Consider

The Joint Budget Committee has proposed a budget package for FY 2026-27 based on the March 2026 Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) revenue forecast. The budget package includes \$42.3 million in set-asides for legislation outside of the package (see table below). The budget package accounts for the 13.0 percent reserve associated with the placeholders.

General Fund Appropriation Placeholders for Other 2026 Legislation (\$ in millions)

Item	FY 2026-27
SB 26-149 (Pathways for Individuals with Mental Health Disorders)	\$25.9
Potential prison capacity supplemental	5.9
Applied Behavioral Analysis Licensing	5.0
County Administration shared services	3.1
SB 26-042 Revenue Reclass	2.3
Medicaid Working Group	0.5
HB 26-1331 (Modify 2026 Interim Committees)	-0.4
Total - Placeholders for other legislation	\$42.3

TABOR/ Excess State Revenues Impact

This bill is estimated to increase cash fund revenues by \$333,992 in FY 2026-27 and by \$407,131 in FY 2027-28, which will reduce the available General Fund by equal amounts. This bill increases the TABOR refund paid from the General Fund by \$333,992 for FY 2026-27, reducing the \$42.3 million General Fund set aside for FY 2026-27 by the same amount.