

State Corporation Commission 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2635

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Cole

3. Committee: Commerce and Labor

4. Title: Social media websites; regulation as public service corporations.

5. Summary: Requires the State Corporation Commission to regulate as a public service corporation any social media website that is open to the public, that has more than 75 million subscribers, and that is not specifically affiliated with any one religion or political party from its inception. The measure prohibits such a website from using an assertion, opinion, or belief that religious or political speech constitutes hate speech as a basis for deleting or censoring a user's religious or political speech. The measure authorizes any user of such a regulated website to bring a civil action against its owner for intentionally deleting or censoring the user's religious or political speech in which the user may recover damages and attorney fees and costs.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: There will need to be a budget amendment but the specific amount is not known at this time. Since this would be a new regulatory responsibility an increase in the number of funded positions also would be necessary.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Not known at this time. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The State Corporation Commission has no experience regulating social media sites and is not aware of any other state which regulates social media.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Corporation Commission

10. Technical Amendment Necessary:

11. Other Comments: There may be constitutional concerns regarding this legislation.