

State Corporation Commission 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1447

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Edwards

3. Committee: Commerce and Labor

4. Title: Disconnection suspensions for certain utilities; residential customers; report.

5. Summary: Suspends electric, gas, water, or wastewater utilities from disconnecting service to a residential customer for nonpayment of bills or fees during a state of emergency declared by the Governor, and such suspension lasts for 30 days after such declaration of the state of emergency. The bill suspends electric and gas utilities from disconnecting service to a residential customer for nonpayment of bills or fees when the forecasted temperature low is at or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit and suspends electric utilities from disconnecting any such customer from service when the forecasted temperature high is at or above 95 degrees Fahrenheit within the 24 hours following the scheduled disconnection. The bill also specifies that disconnections and reconnections based on a residential customer's nonpayment of bills or fees shall not involve additional fees during weather extremes. The bill further suspends electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities from disconnecting residential customers from service on Fridays, weekends, state holidays, and the day immediately preceding a state holiday.

Under the bill, certain utilities are required to report annually on residential utility disconnections beginning December 1, 2024. The bill requires the Broadband Advisory Council to convene a working group to study the feasibility and appropriateness of requiring broadband service providers to comply with the provisions of the bill. The State Corporation Commission is permitted to extend or modify the limitations created by the bill as necessary or in the public interest.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: No fiscal impact on the State Corporation Commission. Any fiscal impact on the Broadband Advisory Council is not yet available.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Corporation Commission, Broadband Advisory Council

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None