



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	S. 344	Introduced on January 12, 2021
Author:	McLeod	
Subject:	Ratepayer Protection Act	
Requestor:	Senate Judiciary	
RFA Analyst(s):	Payne	
Impact Date:	May 17, 2021	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the South Carolina Public Service Commission (PSC) nor on the South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS), as both agencies anticipate that suspending any rate change proceedings due to a declaration of a state of emergency can be managed with existing staff and within existing appropriations.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 12, 2021

State Expenditure

This bill requires PSC to temporarily suspend the rate change process for any public utility during a state of emergency. If the process to change a public utility's rates was initiated prior to a state of emergency declaration and suspended pursuant to this bill, once the rate change is granted the new rates may not go into effect until one year after the expiration of the declared state of emergency.

PSC is responsible for hearings and rulings on proceedings brought by public utilities for changes to customers' rates. PSC indicates that the provisions of this bill will not have an expenditure impact on the agency, as it anticipates being able to manage any additional responsibilities with existing staff and within existing appropriations.

Additionally, ORS is an automatic party to all public utility rate change proceedings brought before PSC. ORS indicates that the provisions of this bill will not have an expenditure impact on the agency, as it anticipates being able to manage any additional responsibilities with existing staff and within existing appropriations.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure and Revenue

N/A

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director