

HB 2808 -- Office of Public Counsel Funding

SPONSOR: Fitzwater (49)

This bill provides a method of funding for the Office of Public Counsel based on an assessment of regulatory costs attributed to each public utility on an annual basis. The utilities may recover costs via general rate case proceedings or, prior to the effective date of the bill, special rate adjustments, and the maximum costs are capped at one fourth of one percent of the gross operating revenues of particular public utilities. Certain telecommunications companies whose retail sales are unregulated by the commission are exempt. The Public Service Commission will regulate payments to a fund and different options for payment schedules are specified in the bill. The commission is authorized to make rules governing copying and filing fees for filing documents related to the public counsel fund.