

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

LEGISLATOR NOTICE

The Legislative Services Division is required to offer a brief history on the subject matter of a bill draft request prior to drafting. (5-4-105, MCA; [Chapter 309, Laws of 2017](#)) The history must include related legislation introduced over the last five sessions and hyperlinks to the bill, hearing information, and fiscal notes. The legislation links below open to the page showing the status and history of bills introduced on this topic in the past. The bill text and any related fiscal notes can be accessed through the link at the top of that page.

Legislation can be complex and this history is not intended to be exhaustive. Please contact the drafter of the requested bill for more information.

Background Materials and Research

Topic Summary: The Public Service Commission (PSC) generally regulates private, investor-owned natural gas, electric, telephone, water and private sewer companies doing business in Montana. In addition, the PSC regulates certain kinds of motor carriers, including garbage trucks and passenger motor carriers. The PSC also oversees rail and pipeline safety regulations in the state. Not all utilities in Montana are regulated by the PSC. Outside PSC jurisdiction are: rural electric and telephone cooperatives; cellular telephone companies; internet service providers; cable TV companies; the quality of municipal water and sewer services; and propane dealers.

In 1974 the Legislature expanded the commission to five members who are elected from regional districts to 4-year staggered terms. The commissioners elect a chair from among themselves every other year. The Department of Public Service Regulation provides staff support for the commission. The department's three divisions are Regulatory, Legal, and Centralized Services. Laws outlining the establishment of the PSC are included in Title 69, chapter 1, part 1. PSC duties are throughout Title 69.

Legislative Services Division Materials:

[PSC Organizational Structure](#) – Legislative Services Division

[PSC Authority to Regulate](#) – Greg Petesch, Legal Opinion

[Department of Public Service Regulation Audit](#) – Legislative Audit Division

Other Materials:

[Montana Public Service Commission](#)

Introduced Legislation

*Chapter number assigned means bill was passed and approved.

2017

[Senate Bill No. 210](#)-- (S) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT REVISING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION LAWS; CHANGING THE NAME OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION TO PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY REGULATION; REQUIRING THE APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS; ESTABLISHING QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS; ESTABLISHING A METHOD FOR SETTING COMMISSION SALARIES; AND AMENDING SECTIONS 2-4-102, 2-15-104, 2-15-1021, 2-15-2212, 2-15-2601, 2-15-2602, 2-16-405, 2-16-602, 2-18-101, 2-18-104, 5-5-230, 5-7-102, 7-2-4736, 7-3-4302, 7-7-4428, 7-10-215, 7-13-4107, 7-14-4401, 10-1-1010, 10-3-1306, 10-3-1309, 13-12-207, 13-37-216, 13-37-226, 13-37-240, 15-2-303, 15-6-138, 15-6-141, 15-23-101, 15-23-301, 15-31-114, 15-32-107, 18-4-302, 20-8-121, 27-19-203, 30-14-105, 30-14-1104, 30-14-1405, 30-14-1702, 30-16-303, 31-1-501, 35-18-104, 39-9-211, 53-1-704, 61-3-716, 61-3-722, 61-10-154, 69-1-101, 69-1-102, 69-1-103, 69-1-104, 69-1-105, 69-1-106, 69-1-107, 69-1-112, 69-1-201, 69-1-223, 69-1-224, 69-1-401, 69-1-403, 69-3-204, 69-3-307, 69-3-601, 69-3-701, 69-3-803, 69-3-901, 69-3-1003, 69-3-1004, 69-3-1006, 69-3-1007, 69-3-1205, 69-4-305, 69-4-314, 69-4-356, 69-5-121, 69-8-201, 69-8-215, 69-11-421, 69-11-422, 69-12-302, 69-12-408, 69-12-421, 69-12-423, 69-12-601, 69-14-604, 69-14-607, 69-14-701, 69-14-910, 75-1-201, 75-6-306, 75-10-404, 75-20-216, 76-3-622, 85-1-510, 85-1-511, 85-1-512, 85-1-513, 85-7-1419, 90-4-1202, AND 90-4-1210, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

[House Bill No. 395](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REGULATION OF HOSPITAL CHARGES; REQUIRING REVIEW OF CERTAIN HOSPITAL PRICING INCREASES; REQUIRING RATE REGULATION AS A CONDITION OF HOSPITAL LICENSURE; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTIONS 37-68-102, 50-5-103, 50-5-104, 50-5-106, 50-5-111, 60-4-401, 69-3-101, 69-3-106, 69-3-110, 69-3-201, 69-3-203, 69-3-221, 69-3-305, 69-3-307, 69-3-321, 69-5-102, 76-3-103, AND 76-3-622, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE.

[Senate Bill No. 11](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT REQUIRING THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO BIENNIALY REVIEW AND UPDATE INTERCONNECTION STANDARDS FOR NET METERING SYSTEMS; EXTENDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AMENDING SECTION 69-8-604, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

[Senate Bill No. 12](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee – AN ACT REVISING AND UPDATING THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION'S ROLE OF REVIEWING NET METERING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGIES; AMENDING SECTIONS 69-8-602, 69-8-603, AND 69-8-604, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

2015

[House Bill No. 42](#) – (H) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal -- AN ACT REVISING CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NOTICE AND HEARING REQUIREMENTS; ELIMINATING REQUIREMENTS FOR NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES; AND AMENDING SECTION 69-3-303, MCA.

[House Bill No. 353](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO A VACANCY ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION; REQUIRING THE GOVERNOR'S APPOINTEE TO FILL A VACANCY TO BE FROM THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AND DISTRICT AS THE FORMER INCUMBENT; REQUIRING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT AN INDIVIDUAL FROM LISTS OF NOMINEES PROVIDED BY THE AFFECTED STATE PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE; PROVIDING TIMELINES FOR THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS; AMENDING SECTION 69-1-106, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

[Senate Bill No. 301](#) – (S) Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal -- AN ACT REVISING NOTICE PROCEDURES AND OVERSIGHT OF MUNICIPAL UTILITY RATES; PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF MUNICIPAL UTILITY RATES BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION; ESTABLISHING MAXIMUM INCREASES ALLOWED IN RATES; REQUIRING APPLICATION TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR CERTAIN INCREASES IN RATES; REQUIRING CERTAIN INFORMATION BE PROVIDED WITH NOTICES ABOUT MUNICIPAL UTILITY RATES; REVISING DEADLINES FOR NOTICE; AMENDING SECTIONS 7-13-4304, 7-13-4307, 7-13-4308, 69-7-101, AND 69-7-111, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE.

2013

[House Bill No. 632](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING MOTOR CARRIER LAWS; ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT THAT CLASS A, CLASS B, AND CLASS C MOTOR CARRIERS MEET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS TO ACQUIRE A CERTIFICATE FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION; PROVIDING A TRANSITION FOR MOTOR CARRIERS OPERATING WITH A CERTIFICATE; AMENDING SECTIONS 69-1-114, 69-12-101, 69-12-205, 69-12-210, 69-12-311, 69-12-312, 69-12-313, 69-12-314, 69-12-321, 69-12-323, 69-12-324, 69-12-328, 69-12-404, 69-12-415, AND 69-12-421, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[Senate Bill No. 153](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT REVISING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DISTRICTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF POPULATION EQUITY; REQUIRING THE ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE TO REVIEW PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DISTRICTS; ESTABLISHING A PROCESS FOR THE REVIEW OF DISTRICTS; AND AMENDING SECTION 69-1-104, MCA.

2011

[Senate Bill No. 62](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT ELIMINATING THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION'S ABILITY TO ASSIGN CUSTOMERS TO ELECTRICITY BUYING COOPERATIVES; AMENDING SECTION 35-19-107, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

[Senate Bill No. 139](#) – (S) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT DEFINING A MOTOR CARRIER AS A REGULATED COMPANY FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING FEES; ELIMINATING THE ANNUAL MOTOR CARRIER FEE; AMENDING SECTIONS 69-1-401, 69-12-101, 69-12-402, AND 69-12-422, MCA; REPEALING SECTION 69-12-421, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.

[Senate Bill No. 271](#) – (H) Died in Standing Committee -- AN ACT REVISING ELEMENTS OF THE BUDGETING PROCESS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION; PROVIDING THAT EMPLOYEES ARE EXEMPT FROM VACANCY SAVINGS; PROVIDING AN EXEMPTION FROM THE 5% BASE BUDGET REDUCTION PLAN; AMENDING SECTION 17-7-111, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

2009

[Senate Bill No. 72](#) – Chapter Number Assigned -- AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION PERSONNEL; AMENDING SECTIONS 69-1-111, 69-1-112, AND 69-3-327, MCA; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 69-1-108 AND 69-1-109, MCA.