

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly

FISCAL NOTE

House Bill 1211 (Delegate Exum)

Environmental Matters

Public Service Companies - Lobbying Expenses

This bill requires a public service company that bills its customers on a periodic basis to calculate: (1) the expenses it incurs in lobbying and other political activities every six months; and (2) the lobbying and political expenses attributable to each customer, by multiplying the expenses for the six-month period by the cost of regulated services billed to the customer as a percentage of all regulated services provided during the six-month period. The bill also provides that every six months the public service company must offer the customer the option to obtain a refund of the lobbying and political expenses attributable to the customer.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would have a positive fiscal effect on the State to the extent that the State is a customer of public service companies and opts to obtain a lobbying and political expense refund. Any increased workload to the Public Service Commission could be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Effect: The bill would have a positive fiscal effect on local governments to the extent that they are customers of public service companies and opt to obtain a lobbying and political expense refund.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal impact. Small businesses would benefit to the extent that they are customers of public service companies and opt to obtain a lobbying and political expense refund.

Information Sources: Department of Budget and Management, Department of General

Services, Public Service Commission

Fiscal Note History:

First Reader - February 24, 1998

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