

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly

**FISCAL NOTE**

**Revised**

House Bill 224 (Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee)  
(Departmental - Public Service Commission)

Environmental Matters

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**Public Service Commission - Obsolete Jurisdiction**

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This departmental bill repeals the Public Service Commission's jurisdiction over railroads, airline companies, power boat companies, towing companies, lightering companies, and telegraph companies.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures could increase by \$211,000 in FY 1998, and \$315,000 annually thereafter.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** The Public Service Commission has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment. (The attached assessment does not reflect amendments to the bill.)

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**Fiscal Analysis**

**State Effect:** Currently, general funds are appropriated to the Division of Labor and Industry to cover the cost of administering the Railroad Safety and Health Program. The Public Service Commission then reimburses the general fund from money it receives as assessments on railroads operating in Maryland. The bill amends the Labor and Employment Article so that the Public Service Commission is not required to reimburse the general fund the cost of administering the Railroad Safety and Health Program. As a result, the bill could cause general fund expenditures to increase by approximately \$211,000 in fiscal 1998, and approximately \$315,000 annually thereafter.

Currently, the Public Service Commission (PSC) is not regulating these industries due to preemptive federal regulation or heightened industry competition. As a result, removing the PSC's regulatory authority over these industries would not impact State finances.

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**Information Source:** Public Service Commission

**Fiscal Note History:**

First Reader - January 29, 1998

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Revised - House Third Reader - March 27, 1998

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