

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2005 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 131

(Chairman, Finance Committee)

(By Request – Departmental – Public Service Commission)

Finance

Economic Matters

Public Service Commission - Annual Reports - Common Carriers and Telephone Companies

This departmental bill exempts common carriers and telephone companies whose rates are not regulated by the Public Service Commission (PSC) from filing an annual report, unless otherwise directed by PSC.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill would not substantively change governmental operations or finances, as it generally codifies current practice.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: PSC 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.

Analysis

Current Law: Public service companies regulated by PSC are required to file an annual report with PSC. Those reports contain various financial and statistical information, as well as information on corporate structure, affiliations of officers and directors, and debt holdings.

A common carrier is defined as a person; public authority; or federal, State, district, or municipal transportation unit that provides public transportation for hire. It includes:

- airline companies;
- car, auto, or bus companies;
- power boat, vessel boat, steamboat, or ferry companies;
- railroad, street railroad, or sleeping car companies;
- taxicabs;
- toll bridge companies; and
- transit companies.

Background: PSC regulates two telephone companies: Verizon and Armstrong. There are 98 telephone facilities that are authorized to operate in the State although many may not be currently earning revenue here and so would not be required to file annual reports.

The number of common carriers estimated for fiscal 2006 are: 1,466 taxicabs; 3,000 for-hire vehicles with less than 16 capacity; and 2,200 for-hire vehicles with 16 or more capacity.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Public Service Commission, Office of People's Counsel, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 27, 2005
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