

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 87TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 23, 2021

TO: Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair, Senate Committee on Jurisprudence

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB2154 by Schwertner (Relating to the membership of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.), **As Introduced**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for SB2154, As Introduced : a negative impact of (\$2,212,072) through the biennium ending August 31, 2023.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

This bill would increase the number of commissioners at the Public Utility Commission from three to five, as well as amend the rules for commissioner eligibility.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five- Year Impact:

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</i> |
|--------------------|---|
| 2022 | (\$1,156,036) |
| 2023 | (\$1,056,036) |
| 2024 | (\$1,056,036) |
| 2025 | (\$1,056,036) |
| 2026 | (\$1,056,036) |

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Probable (Cost) from General Revenue Fund</i> | <i>Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2021</i> |
|--------------------|--|---|
| 2022 | (\$1,156,036) | 6.0 |
| 2023 | (\$1,056,036) | 6.0 |
| 2024 | (\$1,056,036) | 6.0 |
| 2025 | (\$1,056,036) | 6.0 |
| 2026 | (\$1,056,036) | 6.0 |

Fiscal Analysis

This bill would increase the number of commissioners at the Public Utility Commission from three to five.

Methodology

The PUC anticipates that the cost associated with the bill is the cost of 2 commissioners, 2 commissioner

advisors, and 2 support staff, plus the cost to construct 2 new commissioner office suites. Each commissioner salary is \$201,000; each advisor salary is \$135,000; and each support staff salary is \$55,000. The PUC estimates a total of \$8,000 in other operating expense for these 6 new employees. The cost to construct 2 new commissioner office suites, which include multiple offices and a reception area, is estimated by facilities staff to be \$50,000 each, or \$100,000 total in the first year.

Technology

It is anticipated that there is no technological impact from this bill.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Admin, 473 Public Utility Commission of Texas

LBB Staff: JMc, SLE, MB, RRE