

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 1356

As of March 24, 2003

Title: An act relating to updating utilities and transportation commission regulatory fees.

Brief Description: Updating utilities and transportation commission regulatory fees.

Sponsors: Representatives Dunshee, Sommers, DeBolt and Alexander; by request of Utilities & Transportation Commission.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Highways & Transportation: 3/25/03.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: Under current law, companies regulated by the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) are required to pay annual fees. The fees are based on a percentage of each company's gross annual operating revenue from intrastate operations. The minimum fee amounts are set in statute. The UTC may adjust the fee rates as a part of its rate setting process but may not exceed the maximum rates set in statute.

The fee rates vary by category of company as follows:

- For public utility, telecommunications, and certain transportation companies, regulated by the UTC, the fee is limited to a maximum of one-tenth of 1 percent of the first \$50,000 plus two-tenths of 1 percent of any amount over \$50,000. No fee may be less than \$1.
- For auto transportation companies, the fee is limited to a maximum of two-fifths of 1 percent. No fee may be less than \$2.50.
- For commercial ferry companies, the fee is limited to a maximum of two-fifths of 1 percent. No fee may be less than \$5.
- For solid waste collection companies, the fee is limited to a maximum of 1 percent. No fee may be less than \$1.

The amount collected from the fees must reflect the reasonable cost of regulating the companies. The UTC may not waive minimum fees set out in statute.

Summary of Bill: The minimum fees established in statute are removed. However, the UTC may set, through new rulemaking authority, minimum fees in the range of \$0 to \$100. The UTC may also waive part or all of the minimum fees.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.