



Legislative Council Staff

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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 18-0632	Date:	March 9, 2018
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Gray; Willett Sen. Tate	Bill Status:	House Transportation

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Bill Topic:	PUC ELECTRIC UTILITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RATES
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Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure (<i>minimal</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity
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This bill allows the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to approve investor-owned electric utilities in charging lower rates, for up to 10 years, for commercial and industrial users who locate or expand their operations in Colorado. It may result in a minimal workload increase through January 1, 2028, when the bill repeals.

Appropriation Summary:	No appropriation is required.
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Fiscal Note Status:	This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.
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Summary of Legislation

This bill allows the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to approve, and investor-owned electric utilities (IOUs) to charge, a discounted economic development rate for commercial and industrial users who locate or expand their operations in Colorado and add at least 3 megawatts of new load at a single location. To qualify for these rates, customers must demonstrate that electricity cost is critical to their decision about where to locate or expand their business. Economic development rates may be offered to customers until 2028, when the bill repeals.

The bill also authorizes an IOU to seek PUC approval and expand a voluntary renewable energy program to meet the current or projected demand of a commercial or industrial customer that:

- makes a capital investment in Colorado of at least \$250 million;
- requires the expansion in order to remain as a customer of the utility; or
- is a new customer of the utility.

The PUC must approve a program within 60 days if the IOU meets the criteria outlined in the bill.

Finally, the bill specifies that utilities shall not cross-subsidize economic development rates by raising rates on other customers. The utility bears the burden of proof in any PUC proceeding on this issue.

State Expenditures

This bill would allow an IOU to seek approval from the PUC to provide discounted rates in order to either encourage increased production from existing qualified commercial or industrial customers or attract new qualified commercial or industrial customers to Colorado. While the bill would require modification of PUC rules, the bill does not require expedited procedural treatment. The one exception would be for applications to increase the capacity of an existing, voluntary, renewable program, which are expected to occur infrequently. As such, the associated workload increase can be handled within the normal course of business and does not require an appropriation.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect January 1, 2019, if no referendum petition is filed. It applies to conduct on or after this date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Regulatory Agencies

Information Technology