

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

Legislative Office Building, Room 5200
Hartford, CT 06106 ◊ (860) 240-0200
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/ofa>

SB-855

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DECOUPLING OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Public Utility Control, Dept.	CC&PUCF - Cost	None	Up to \$750,000

Note: CC&PUCF=Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill requires that the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) develop and implement a plan to decouple from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), beginning no later than October 1 and implementing the plan thereafter. There are anticipated personnel costs related to the hiring of fiscal administration staff as a result of the separation. Based on the deadlines outlined in the bill, it is not anticipated that the decoupling of these entities would incur costs until FY 23.

Currently, DEEP provides fiscal administration services for PURA. It is anticipated that decoupling from DEEP would require PURA to hire 5 fiscal-related employees at an annual cost of \$746,960 for salary and fringe benefits.¹

¹ The fringe benefit costs for employees funded out of other appropriated funds are budgeted within the fringe benefit account of those funds, as opposed to the fringe benefit accounts within the Office of the State Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes for other appropriated fund employees is 95.57% of payroll in FY 22 and FY 23

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.