

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5314

AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER AGREEMENTS AND CONSUMER BILLS.

As Amended by Senate "A" (LCO 10029)

House Calendar No.: 118

Senate Calendar No.: 538

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)	PUC/CC - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Sections 1-2 set limitations on using automatic renewal and continuous service provisions in consumer agreements and allows the Department of Consumer Protection to adopt regulations on providing consumer bills in paper form resulting in no fiscal impact to the state.

Sections 3-4 make a variety of changes addressing video services and how they are regulated including (1) prohibiting the charging of fees beyond cost for disconnection service, (2) creating a variety of regulations around holding companies not engaged in interstate commerce, and (3) granting the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) greater oversight over video services as a utility. The amendment charges PURA with holding hearings for any acquisition of a holding company by another corporation and empowers PURA greater oversight of mergers between such companies. This creates a potential cost to the extent that PURA is required to investigate and make additional rulings over video services and telecommunications

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companies.

The bill also makes a clarifying change resulting in no fiscal impact.

Senate "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact, resulting in the impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the extent that PURA is required to investigate and make additional rulings over video services and telecommunications companies and inflation.