

**Public Service Commission
House Bill No. 2008**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2003-05 executive budget (bills as introduced)	41.00	\$4,003,600	\$6,084,744	\$10,088,344
2003-05 legislative appropriations	41.00	3,911,494	6,072,767	9,984,261
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	0.00	(\$92,106)	(\$11,977)	(\$104,083)
Legislative increase (decrease) to 2001-03 appropriations	0.00	\$45,115	\$343,282	\$388,397

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET AND MAJOR FUNDING ITEMS

Salaries and Wages

The legislative action affecting the recommended appropriation for the Public Service Commission is in accordance with legislative salary and fringe benefits guidelines as contained in Senate Bill No. 2423, which allows agencies to provide salary increases of up to 1 percent on January 1, 2004, and up to 2 percent on January 1, 2005, to be funded in part from pooled savings accumulated from agency FTE position reductions.

	Major Items FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action:				
Removed funding recommended in the executive budget for state employee salary increases		(\$34,287)	(\$18,565)	(\$52,852)
Reduced funding recommended in the executive budget for state employee health insurance premiums from \$493 to \$488.70 per month per policy		(2,819)	(1,412)	(4,231)
Changed funding source related to indirect cost recoveries		(8,000)	8,000	0
Reduced funding for information technology equipment purchases		(10,200)		(10,200)
Reduced funding for legal reference materials		(5,000)		(5,000)
Reduced funding for professional development		(2,000)		(2,000)
Reduced funding for information technology programming and support costs		(12,800)		(12,800)
Reduced funding for salaries and wages		(2,000)		(2,000)
Reduced funding for information technology and related travel and copier-related printing costs		(15,000)		(15,000)
Total	0.00	(\$92,106)	(\$11,977)	(\$104,083)

FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation which included funding for 41 FTE positions, the same as the 2001-03 biennium.

Other Sections in Bill

Legislative Council studies - The Legislative Assembly provided for two Legislative Council studies. The first study relates to examining the possibility of consolidating inspection and standards functions performed by various state agencies within the Public Service Commission. The second study relates to feasibility and desirability of making the Public Service Commission a special funded agency.

Rail rate complaint case - The Legislative Assembly approved \$250,000 for the initial stage of a rail rate complaint case, \$225,000 of which is from the state rail fund and \$25,000 from other interested parties and other sources. The Public Service Commission may not spend the \$225,000 from the state rail fund until receiving commitments for the \$25,000 of other funds. The Public Service Commission is to repay the state rail fund from any proceeds realized from a successful outcome of the rail rate complaint case.

Information technology reduction - The Legislative Assembly did not make a specific 5 percent information technology reduction for the Public Service Commission which would have totaled \$22,014 from the general fund. The Legislative Assembly made other information technology-related reductions which totaled \$38,000.

Related Legislation

Performance assurance fund - House Bill No. 1052 creates a performance assurance fund, which is a component of Qwest's performance assurance plan to provide long-distance telephone service. The Public Service Commission is to deposit payments received under the performance assurance plan in the performance assurance fund until deposits during a biennium equal \$100,000. All money deposited in the fund is appropriated on a continuing basis to the commission to monitor the operation and effect of the performance assurance plan. All payments received by the commission in excess of the \$100,000 deposited in the performance assurance fund must be deposited in the general fund.

Fees for testing, weighing, and measuring devices - Senate Bill No. 2112 increases the statutory fees charged to test and certify weights and measuring equipment used in commercial service. General fund revenues are anticipated to increase by \$127,000 per biennium as a result of the statutory fee changes in this bill.