

**Public Service Commission
Budget No. 408
Senate Bill No. 2008**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2011-13 executive budget (bills as introduced)	43.00	\$6,020,215	\$13,061,648	\$19,081,863
2011-13 legislative appropriations	43.00	6,020,215	13,061,648	19,081,863
Legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legislative increase (decrease) to 2009-11 appropriations	0.00	\$344,050	\$2,399,406	\$2,743,456

ONGOING AND ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS

	Ongoing General Fund Appropriation	One-Time General Fund Appropriation	Total General Fund Appropriation
2009-11 legislative appropriations	\$5,676,165	\$0	\$5,676,165
2011-13 legislative appropriations	6,020,215	0	6,020,215
2011-13 legislative increase (decrease) to 2009-11 appropriations	\$344,050	\$0	\$344,050
Percentage increase (decrease) to 2009-11 appropriations	6.1%	N/A	6.1%
2011-13 legislative increase (decrease) to executive budget	\$0	\$0	\$0
Percentage increase (decrease) to executive budget	0.0%	N/A	0.0%

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. 2015.

	Major Items			
	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
The legislative action: The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation for the Public Service Commission.				
Total	0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0

FTE Changes

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation which included funding for 43 FTE positions, the same as the 2009-11 biennium.

Federal Fiscal Stimulus Funding

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide \$658,217 of one-time federal funding relating to continuation of federal fiscal stimulus funding for the regulation and oversight of energy transmission and generation infrastructure. The Public Service Commission may utilize this funding for 3 temporary FTE positions, training costs, and other related operating expenses.

Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation

The Legislative Assembly did not change the executive recommendation to provide an increase of \$1.5 million of federal funds authority related to an increase in available federal funds for abandoned mine lands reclamation.

Other Sections in Bill

Salary of commissioners - Section 3 provides statutory changes to North Dakota Century Code Section 49-01-05 relating to the salaries of the Public Service Commissioners. The Legislative Assembly authorized 2011-13 biennium salary increases of 3 percent effective July 1, 2011, and 3 percent effective July 1, 2012, for elected officials. The Public Service Commissioners' salaries are to be increased from the current level of \$90,122 to \$92,826 effective July 1, 2011, and to \$95,611 effective July 1, 2012.

Rail rate complaint case funding - Section 4 provides a transfer of \$900,000 from the Bank of North Dakota beginning farmer revolving loan fund to the Public Service Commission to pay for costs associated with a rail rate complaint case. If any amount is spent, the Public Service Commission is to reimburse the beginning farmer revolving loan fund using amounts from damages or proceeds received, net of legal fees, from a successful outcome of a rail rate complaint case.

Legislative Management pipeline safety study - Section 5 provides that the Legislative Management consider studying gas pipelines in the state focusing on safety concerns of gas utility distribution and transmission, including all pipeline activity and addressing the jurisdiction of pipelines in the state in consultation with the Public Service Commission, Industrial Commission, and North Dakota One Call.

Related Legislation

Siting application fees - Senate Bill No. 2196 lowers the jurisdictional threshold for siting wind farms to one-half megawatt, and for siting other energy generation the threshold is 50 megawatts. The bill also provides for siting fees for transfer applications and certifications under Section 49-22-03(3).

Certificate of public convenience and necessity - Secured by electric public utility - Senate Bill No. 2322 requires electric transmission providers to obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the commission before interconnecting with an existing transmission line owned or operated by an electric public utility.