

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0075

Date: January 17, 2013

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Scott
Sen. Schwartz

Bill Status: House Transportation and Energy
Fiscal Analyst: Clare Pramuk (303-866-2677)

TITLE: CONCERNING MODIFICATIONS TO THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION'S OVERSIGHT OF RAIL FIXED GUIDEWAY SYSTEM SAFETY.

| Fiscal Impact Summary | FY 2013-2014 | FY 2014-2015 |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| State Revenue Cash Funds Public Utilities Fixed Utilities Fund | See State Revenue and Expenditures. | |
| State Expenditures Cash Funds Public Utilities Fixed Utilities Fund | | |
| FTE Position Change | | |
| Effective Date: August 7, 2013, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 8, 2013, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed. | | |
| Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: None required. | | |
| Local Government Impact: See Local Government Impact section. | | |

Summary of Legislation

This bill, **recommended by the Transportation Legislation Review Committee**, conforms Colorado law with new federal requirements that prohibit the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) from assessing administrative fees on any rail fixed guideway system that it regulates. The only rail fixed guideway system in Colorado is the Regional Transportation District (RTD) rail system. Under federal law, the PUC oversees system safety by auditing the system and relevant records including vehicle, signal, and track maintenance. The PUC is authorized to continue to pay its administrative expenses from the Fixed Utilities Fund (FUF) for regulation of the RTD rail system. The bill also exempts the PUC from annual reporting on the RTD rail system to the Department of Revenue.

State Revenue and Expenditures

Overall revenue and expenditures will not change under this bill. However, the source of revenue to the PUC FUF will change from fees assessed on the RTD rail system of approximately \$115,000 per year to annual fee assessments on other public utilities based on revenue from intrastate utility business. This represents less than one percent of the revenue and expenditures of the FUF so will not have a significant impact on other public utilities.

Local Government Impact

RTD currently pays approximately \$115,000 annually to the PUC for administrative expenses. This bill eliminates that payment so reduces RTD expenditures by \$115,000 in FY 2013-14 and thereafter.

Departments Contacted

Regional Transportation District

Regulatory Agencies

Revenue