



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
2009-10 Legislative Session

**FISCAL NOTE**

HOUSE BILL No. 2282    PRINTER'S NO: 3262    PRIME SPONSOR: D. Evans

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
<b>Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):</b>		
State Funds—restricted revenue account (utilities)	\$0	\$5,200,000

**OVERVIEW:**

This bill appropriates \$5,200,000 to the Office of the Consumer Advocate (OCA) within the Office of the Attorney General for the operations of the OCA for FY 2010/11. Funding for the OCA comes from assessments on the utilities regulated by the Public Utility Commission.

The effective date is July 1, 2010, or immediately, whichever is later.

**ANALYSIS:**

The bill provides a \$76,000 increase (+1.5%) to the OCA over its current year budget of \$5,124,000. According to budget documentation, the increase consists of two parts: \$26,000 for personnel to maintain the current complement of thirty-five persons, and \$50,000 for increased expenses related to expert witnesses. The current budget for expert witnesses is \$1,150,000. Expert witnesses are important because administrative law judges rely on expert witnesses in rendering decisions on utility cases.

Sources used in the preparation of this fiscal note include budget documentation and testimony submitted to the Committee of Appropriations and other information provided by the Office of the Consumer Advocate.

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House Committee on Appropriations, (D)

**DATE:** March 8, 2010

**General Note and Disclaimer:** *This Fiscal Note was prepared pursuant to House Rule 19(a), and the elements considered and reported above are required by Section 5 of the rule. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*