



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1619

PRINTER'S NO. 2226

PRIME SPONSOR: RYNCAVAGE

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2023/24	FY 2024/25
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY:

Amends Title 66 (Public Utilities) by adding a new section addressing double utility poles.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1619, Printer's Number 2226 adds a new section to Public Utilities requiring the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to commence a rulemaking regarding double utility poles. This rulemaking will consider, at a minimum, the following:

- The acceptable uses of double utility poles,
- Registration by infrastructure owners using public utility poles,
- Reasonable procedures, time periods, indemnification, surety bonds, and compensation associated with double utility poles, and
- The imposition of civil penalties for infrastructure owners that violate the final-form regulations promulgated after its rulemaking.

Within 90 days from the effective date of this legislation, the PUC will commence an advance notice of rulemaking. The PUC will submit a notice of proposed rulemaking to the Legislative Reference Bureau within 180 days from the date of commencement. The PUC will seek approval of the final-form of regulations within 18 months of the publication of the notice.

This legislation will take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation would have no impact on Commonwealth Funds. The new responsibilities imposed by this legislation should be able to be met using existing agency resources.

PREPARED BY: Pat Shaughnessy

House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: October 31, 2023

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.