

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## HB 2523

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Energy, Environment & Technology, February 22, 2018

**Title:** An act relating to the annual reporting requirements for regulated utility and transportation companies.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the annual reporting requirements for regulated utility and transportation companies.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Hudgins, DeBolt, Kloba, Tarleton, Smith and Morris; by request of Utilities & Transportation Commission.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/08/18, 78-20.

**Committee Activity:** Energy, Environment & Technology: 2/20/18, 2/22/18 [DP].

### Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes certain annual reporting requirements for regulated public service companies (companies).
- Changes assessed penalties for companies that fail to timely file an annual report with the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) from a per day fee to a graduated fee.
- Provides a process to waive a penalty under certain circumstances.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT & TECHNOLOGY

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Carlyle, Chair; Palumbo, Vice Chair; Ericksen, Ranking Member; Brown, Hawkins, Hobbs, McCoy, Ranker, Sheldon and Wellman.

**Staff:** Angela Kleis (786-7469)

**Background:** Under current law, the Commission regulates the rates, services, facilities, and practices of all public utility service businesses or commodities that operate for compensation within Washington.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Companies are required to file an annual report with the Commission by a due date determined by the Commission. The annual reports must include certain financial and safety data such as:

- investment data;
- employee salaries and statistics;
- the character and costs of improvement; and
- a complete exhibit of the financial operations of the company for each year.

The Commission is authorized to assess a penalty of \$100 per day on companies that fail to meet the set due date.

**Summary of Bill:** Certain annual reporting requirements for financial and safety data are removed.

If a company fails to file an annual report with the Commission by the set due date, the company will be assessed a penalty as follows:

- \$250 for a report filed 1-30 days past due;
- \$500 for a report filed 31-60 days past due;
- \$1,000 for a report filed 61-90 days past due; or
- cancellation or revocation of operating authority and additional penalties upon notice from the Commission.

The Commission may waive the assessed penalties if a company is able to demonstrate that an annual report was filed past due because of circumstances beyond the company's control. A company must request a waiver within 15 days after a penalty is assessed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This agency request legislation that streamlines the annual reporting process by making modifications to current reporting enforcement policies and procedures. It creates a more efficient and transparent structure to the annual reporting process that reduces the financial and administrative burden on both the agency and the industry.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Jon Noski, Utilities & Transportation Commission.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.