Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 1819 S HB	**Title:** Transmission capacity

Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

Agency Name	2025-27		2027-29		2029-31	
	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total	GF- State	Total
Local Gov. Courts						
Loc School dist-SPI						
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact					
Local Gov. Total						

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27				2027-29				2029-31			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Department of Commerce	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Utilities and Transportation Commission	.3	0	0	109,387	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Ecology	.9	270,993	270,993	270,993	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Total $	**1.2**	**270,993**	**270,993**	**380,380**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Department of Commerce	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Utilities and Transportation Commission	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Ecology	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Total $	**0.0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	No fiscal impact								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

Prepared by: Kyle Siefering, OFM	Phone: (360) 995-3825	Date Published: Final 2/26/2025

FNPID 73592

FNS029 Multi Agency rollup

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1819 S HB	Title: Transmission capacity	Agency: 103-Department of Commerce

Part I: Estimates

[X] **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:
NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

[ ] If fiscal impact is greater than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.

[ ] If fiscal impact is less than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

[ ] Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

[ ] Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Megan McPhaden	Phone: 360-786-7114	Date: 02/19/2025
Agency Preparation:	Joseph Piper	Phone: 360-725-3042	Date: 02/24/2025
Agency Approval:	Joseph Piper	Phone: 360-725-3042	Date: 02/24/2025
OFM Review:	Val Terre	Phone: (360) 280-3073	Date: 02/24/2025

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Section 1 Exempts upgrading or rebuilding transmission lines, including with grid enhancing technologies, from State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review. Including relocations of small segments of lines within previous developed or disturbed rights of way and widening of existing rights-of-way into previously disturbed or developed land. The exemption does not apply to underwater transmission lines.

Section 2 requires that transmission lines that meet the Section 1 exemption, but notify the department of archaeology and historic preservation and each federally-recognized tribe to determine whether there are archaeological, cultural, or tribal resources in the right-of-way.

Section 3 requires utilities with more than 25,000 customers, and which are not full requirements customers, to include in their integrated resource plans an evaluation of where advanced reconductoring would increase ampacity, reduce line loss, or improve gris resilience and identify which entity owns lines identified and document plans to make more effective use of them.

Section 4 allows the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to apply an incentive rate of return on capital expenditures for grid-enhancing technologies and reconductoring with advanced conductors of up to 2%.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

The Department of Commerce assumes no impact under the proposed legislation.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1819 S HB	Title: Transmission capacity	Agency: 215-Utilities and Transportation Commission

Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0
Account					
Public Service Revolving Account-State 111-1	41,117	68,270	109,387	0	0
Total $	41,117	68,270	109,387	0	0

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

☒ If fiscal impact is greater than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.

☐ If fiscal impact is less than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

☒ Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Megan McPhaden	Phone: 360-786-7114	Date: 02/19/2025
Agency Preparation:	Kim Anderson	Phone: 360-664-1153	Date: 02/24/2025
Agency Approval:	Kim Anderson	Phone: 360-664-1153	Date: 02/24/2025
OFM Review:	Kyle Siefering	Phone: (360) 995-3825	Date: 02/26/2025

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

New Section 1 amends chapter 43.21C RCW, which applies to state and local public agencies conducting State Environmental Policy Act, or SEPA, reviews, and includes a series of utility-related actions, which are categorically exempt from compliance with this Chapter. (No Fiscal Impact)

New Section 2 amends chapter 43.21C RCW, outlining specific project categorial exemptions under Section 1 of this act, and includes notification, consultation, and other requirements for utilities to notify the department of archaeology and historic preservation and federally recognized Indian tribes regarding resources in the right-of-way before commencing projects. The UTC assumes no significant incremental work. (No Fiscal Impact)

Section 3 amends energy planning requirements in RCW 19.280.030 and 2024 c 351 s 9 related to the clean energy action plan, including updates to (2)(e), clarifying that an evaluation must be included where reconductoring under certain conditions would yield meaningful improvements and reliability of the system; further, (2)(f) is added to determine the entity that owns the bulk transmission system related to (e) as "that entity." The UTC assumes modifications to requirements under Section 3, which will necessitate modifications to existing agency rules, including WAC 480-100-600, Part VIII—Planning and Implementation.

Section 4 amends chapter 80.28 RCW and allows electrical companies to earn an incentive rate of return on grid-enhancing technologies and reconductoring investments in advanced conductor reconductoring until 2040. Companies can receive up to a two percent increase in return on equity for eligibility projects installed after July 1, 2025, with earnings limited to increments for a period of 15 years. A new subsection (5) is added, clarifying "reconductoring with advanced conductors," and specifying what "advanced conductors" may include.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

UTC assumes no cash receipts will go to the UTC because of this legislation.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

Section 1: Simple Rulemaking to Amend Energy Planning Requirements
Simple rulemaking and open meeting to amend energy planning requirements. In FY 2026 (assuming initiation in Q2-2025), the UTC assumes fiscal impact through a simple rulemaking and Open Meeting.

FY 2026: $41,117

(Administrative Law Judge, 0.06 FTE; Director, Regulatory Services 0.02 FTE; Deputy Director, Energy Planning, 0.02 FTE; Policy Advisor, 0.02 FTE; Section Manager, Energy Planning 0.02 FTE; Regulatory Analyst 2, 0.03 FTE; Regulatory Analyst 3, 0.04 FTE; Attorney General, 0.02 FTE)

Section 4: Implementation of incentive rate of return and policies to encourage transmission infrastructure investment. Section 4 states that the commission may allow incentive rate of return on grid-enhancing technologies and reconductoring as well as implement other policies to encourage increased deployment of transmission infrastructure which would require

complex policy analysis, stakeholder outreach, hosting of workshops, & drafting of policy statements. Staff assume analysis in three (3) electric investor-owned utility General Rate Cases (GRCs) and associated analysis in FY 2027.

FY2027: $68,270 total cost
(Commissioner: 0.02 FTE; Director, Policy 0.01 FTE; Director, Regulatory Services: 0.02 FTE; Deputy Director | Energy Rates & Services, 0.04 FTE; Section Manager | Energy Rates & Services, 0.10 FTE; Regulatory Analyst 3, 0.14 FTE; Policy Advisor, 0.05 FTE; Attorney General, 0.02 FTE)

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
111-1	Public Service Revolving Account	State	41,117	68,270	109,387	0	0
		Total $	41,117	68,270	109,387	0	0

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	0.2	0.4	0.3		
A-Salaries and Wages	27,971	46,441	74,412		
B-Employee Benefits	9,789	16,256	26,045		
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	3,357	5,573	8,930		
G-Travel					
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-					
Total $	41,117	68,270	109,387	0	0

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Administrative Law Judge	115,008	0.1		0.0		
Attorney General	237,600	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Commissioner	149,532		0.0	0.0		
Deputy Director, Energy Planning	122,472	0.0		0.0		
Deputy Director, Energy Rates and Services	117,912		0.0	0.0		
Director, Policy	133,008		0.0	0.0		
Director, Regulatory Services	144,108	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Policy Advisor, Energy	104,568	0.0	0.1	0.0		
Regulatory Analyst 2	88,800	0.0		0.0		
Regulatory Analyst 3	100,524	0.0	0.1	0.1		
Section Manager, Energy Planning Unit B	110,580	0.0		0.0		
Section Manager, Energy Rates and Services Unit A	104,688		0.1	0.1		
Total FTEs		0.2	0.4	0.3		0.0

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

The UTC assumes modifications to requirements under Sections 1, which will necessitate modifications to existing agency rules, including WAC 480-100-600, Part VIII—Planning and Implementation.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1819 S HB	Title: Transmission capacity	Agency: 461-Department of Ecology

Part I: Estimates

☐ **No Fiscal Impact**

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.0	0.0
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	151,868	119,125	270,993	0	0
Total $	151,868	119,125	270,993	0	0

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

☒ If fiscal impact is greater than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.

☐ If fiscal impact is less than $50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).

☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.

☒ Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact:	Megan McPhaden	Phone: 360-786-7114	Date: 02/19/2025
Agency Preparation:	Sam Weinstein	Phone: (564) 250-2427	Date: 02/24/2025
Agency Approval:	Garret Ward	Phone: 360-789-7938	Date: 02/24/2025
OFM Review:	Lisa Borkowski	Phone: (360) 742-2239	Date: 02/26/2025

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Changes between SSB 5155 and SB 5155:

The new section added to chapter 43.21C RCW, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) would now be in section 1 of the bill. The exemption would cover:

- upgrading or rebuilding existing electric powerlines. Actions would include relocating small segments of the powerlines within existing rights-of-way or within adjacent previously disturbed or developed lands.
- widening existing powerline rights-of-way to meet current electrical standards if the widening remains within previously disturbed or developed lands and only extends into a small area beyond such lands as needed to comply with applicable electrical standards.
- upgrading an existing transmission line within existing rights-of-way with grid-enhancing technologies defined in Section 2.

The categorical exemption would not apply to underwater powerlines.

These changes would now require a Level 2, moderately complex rulemaking, which would increase the fiscal impact to Ecology.

Original narrative:

Section 3 would add a new section to chapter 43.21C RCW, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) to exempt any utility actions for upgrading or rebuilding existing transmission lines using reconductoring within existing rights-of-way. It would also add an exemption for widening existing rights-of-way to meet electrical standards if it is done within previously disturbed or developed lands. This would require Level 1 Rulemaking.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

The expenditure impact to Ecology under this bill is estimated to be greater than $50,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 and FY 2027 to implement the requirements of section 1.

Section 1 would require a level 2 rulemaking to create the new categorial exemptions under chapter 43.21C RCW, SEPA, for upgrading or rebuilding existing electric powerlines, widening existing powerline right-of-way, and upgrading an existing transmission line within existing rights-of-way and align the existing rules with the new exemptions. Ecology assumes rulemaking would commence upon the effective date of the bill.

Ecology estimates that rulemaking would be moderately complex and generate substantial public interest and input. It would require eighteen months, from July 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026. This type of rulemaking would include two preproposal meetings with webinar to gather input from stakeholders and develop the Environmental Justice Assessment and then two public hearings to accept comments on the rule proposal. Ecology estimates no costs for facility rental costs since hearings

would be held on-site.

Rulemaking Lead: Ecology estimates that an Environmental Planner 3 would spend 0.65 FTE in FY 2026 and 0.33 FTE in FY 2027 coordinating the rulemaking effort and developing the Environmental Justice Assessment.

Technical Lead: Ecology estimates that an Environmental Planner 5 would spend 0.25 FTE in FY 2026 and 0.13 FTE in FY 2027 to provide SEPA expertise and guidance when developing draft rule language and to engage with Tribes and other interested parties.

The following positions would complete an economic and regulatory analysis of the rule:
Economic Analyst 3, 0.2 FTE in FY 2027
Regulatory Analyst 2, 0.05 FTE in FY 2027

SUMMARY: The estimated expenditure impact to Ecology under this bill would be $270,993 and 1.8 FTEs in FY 2026 and 2027.

Level 2 Rulemaking is estimated to require:
FY 2026: $151,868 and 1.0 FTEs
FY 2027: $119,125 and 0.8 FTEs

THE TOTAL EXPENDITURE IMPACT to Ecology under this bill is estimated to be:
FY 2026: $151,868 and 1.0 FTEs
FY 2027: $119,125 and 0.8 FTEs

Notes on costs by object:

Salary estimates are current biennium actual rates at Step L.
Benefits are the agency average of 33.7% of salaries.
Goods and Services are the agency average of $5,552 per direct program FTE.
Travel is the agency average of $2,398 per direct program FTE.
Equipment is the agency average of $1,074 per direct program FTE.
Agency Administrative Overhead is calculated at the federally approved agency indirect rate of 29.9% of direct program salaries and benefits, and is shown as object 9. Agency Administrative Overhead FTEs are included at 0.15 FTE per direct program FTE, and are identified as Fiscal Analyst 2 and IT App Development - Journey.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
001-1	General Fund	State	151,868	119,125	270,993	0	0
		Total $	151,868	119,125	270,993	0	0

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	1.0	0.8	0.9		
A-Salaries and Wages	82,766	64,953	147,719		
B-Employee Benefits	27,892	21,889	49,781		
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	4,997	3,886	8,883		
G-Travel	2,159	1,679	3,838		
J-Capital Outlays	967	752	1,719		
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-Agency Administrative Overhead	33,087	25,966	59,053		
Total $	151,868	119,125	270,993	0	0

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
ECONOMIC ANALYST 3	95,652		0.2	0.1		
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER 3	86,712	0.7	0.3	0.5		
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER 5	105,612	0.3	0.1	0.2		
FISCAL ANALYST 2		0.1	0.1	0.1		
IT APP DEVELOPMENT-JOURNEY		0.1	0.0	0.1		
REGULATORY ANALYST 2	88,800		0.1	0.0		
Total FTEs		1.0	0.8	0.9		0.0

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Section 1 would require Level 2 rulemaking to create new categorial exemptions under chapter 43.21C RCW, SEPA, and align the existing rules with the new exemptions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 1819 S HB	Title: Transmission capacity

Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

Legislation Impacts:

- ☐ Cities:
- ☐ Counties:
- ☐ Special Districts:
- ☐ Specific jurisdictions only:
- ☐ Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

- ☒ No fiscal impacts.
- ☐ Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- ☐ Legislation provides local option:
- ☐ Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time:

Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

None

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Kristine Williams	Phone: (564) 250-5931	Date: 02/20/2025
Leg. Committee Contact: Megan McPhaden	Phone: 360-786-7114	Date: 02/19/2025
Agency Approval: Alice Zillah	Phone: 360-725-5035	Date: 02/20/2025
OFM Review: Kyle Siefering	Phone: (360) 995-3825	Date: 02/26/2025

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.

This note is on S HB 1819 and compares it to HB 1819.

CHANGES BETWEEN THIS VERSION AND THE PRIOR VERSION OF THE BILL:
This version of the bill expands the categorical exemption from the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for certain electric utility upgrades and improvements. Categorical exemptions in Section 1 are prohibited from applying to underwater powerlines. This version of the bill also requires a Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) review for resources in the rights-of-way for any categorical exemptions in Section 1. If resources are identified, the utility will be held responsible to account for and protect them. Electric companies with more than 25,000 customers are no longer required to examine which of their transmission lines can be reconductored. These utilities are now required to evaluate where reconductoring would yield meaningful improvements to the grid and to document the owner's known efforts that increase transmission capacity in the utility's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Definitions of "grid-enhancing technologies" and "reconductoring with advanced conductors" are provided.

These changes do not affect the fiscal impacts discussed below.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT BILL:
This legislation provides categorial exemptions under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for certain electric utility upgrades and improvements. Electric companies with more than 25,000 customers must evaluate where reconductoring would yield meaningful improvements to the grid, determine the owner of such facilities, and document known efforts by that owner to increase transmission capacity.

This legislation would take effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This legislation would have an indeterminate, but de minimus, expenditure impact on local governments.

The Chelan Public Utility District does not anticipate a fiscal impact from this legislation. The PUD currently includes an analysis of potential upgrades and other improvements, to include transmission lines, that will increase efficiencies in IRP updates. The Local Fiscal Note Program (LGFN) assumes that other local government utilities will incorporate this requirement into the current IRP planning timeline.

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This bill would not impact local government revenues.

SOURCES
Chelan Public Utility District