

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Rural members on the Public Utilities Commission

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### Overview

This bill increases the rural membership on the Public Utilities Commission from one to two members, and requires a review of the utility regulatory structure and process to ensure:

- ▶ the state has the most representative, cost-effective and efficient utility regulatory system possible; and
- ▶ the utility regulatory system takes into account the issues and concerns of rural service providers, residents and businesses.

### Section

- 1 Public utilities commission; rural membership.** Increases the rural membership of the public utilities commission from one to two members. Specifies that of these two members, one has to be from outside a city of the first or second class.
- 2 Utility regulatory review; rural concerns.** Requires the chair of the public utilities commission and the commissioner of commerce to jointly review the organizational structure and regulatory procedures by which energy and telecommunication service providers are regulated by the state, and issue a report with recommendations to the legislature by January 15, 2004.  
  
Specifies that a primary focus of the review shall be to consider actions that could be taken to ensure the utility regulatory structure and process takes into account the issues and concerns of rural service providers, residents and businesses.
- 3 Effective date.** Makes section 1 effective June 30, 2004. Makes section 2 effective immediately.

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