

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Section

- 1** **[13.681] Public utility expense data.** Specifies that employee expense data submitted to the Public Utilities Commission in a rate case petition is governed by the provisions of section 2.

- 2** **[216B.16, subd. 17.] Travel, entertainment, and related expenses.** Prohibits the commission from allowing as operating expenses, travel, entertainment, and related employee expenses that the commission deems unreasonable and unnecessary for the provision of utility service.

Requires a utility filing a general rate case petition to provide the commission with a separate itemization in nine expense categories – including travel and lodging; food and beverages; dues and organization memberships; and lobbying – for the most recently completed fiscal year.

Specifies that this information is public data, except that the salaries of the fifth through tenth highest paid executives¹ may be treated as private data by the commission or the administrative law judge assigned to the rate case or may be the subject of a protective order withholding release of the data, provided that the utility establishes that the competitive disadvantage to the utility outweighs the public interest in gaining access to the data. Parties to the rate case must have access to this data.

- 3** **[216B.16] Election or ballot question expenses.** Prohibits the commission from allowing a public utility to recover contributions to political candidates or to approve or defeat a ballot question from ratepayers, unless the ballot question, if passed, would increase utility rates.

¹The Securities and Exchange Commission requires disclosure of salaries and other compensation of a company's CEO, CFO, and three other most highly paid executives.