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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/04/13
 SPONSOR HJC LAST UPDATED 02/22/13 HB 175/HJCS/aSPAC
 SHORT TITLE Suspension of Utilities for Deployed Military SB _____
 ANALYST Chenier

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		NFI	NFI	N/A	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

Public Regulation Commission (PRC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SPAC Amendment

The Senate Public Affairs Committee amendment to House Bill 175, in numerous instances, adds the word “county” allowing deployed military service members to suspend county services in addition to municipal services.

Synopsis of Bill

The House Judiciary Committee substitute for House Bill 175 (HB 175) allows a member of the U.S. armed forces deployed for more than 30 days to suspend some or all municipal services, public utilities, or telecommunications services whose rates are regulated by the municipality or the Public Regulation Commission (PRC) and reconnect those services without having to pay a reconnect fee. The resident must certify that they have orders to deploy, service is in the resident’s name, the resident owns the home or has a lease, and other family members will not be staying in the home while the resident is deployed or temporarily assigned.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The PRC provided the following:

HB 175 may result in a rate increase to other ratepayers or customers of the municipal service provider, cable provider, and public utility or telecommunication providers who may incur costs that have to be recovered from other ratepayers. These costs could be high in areas that have military installations as a significant part of their community.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The deployed resident will continue having to pay a reconnect or disconnect fee when he or she is deployed or on temporary duty outside the resident's community.

EC/svb:blm