

Office of Consumer Counsel

DCC38100

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund	19	21	21	21	21	23	23

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 23	Actual FY 24	Appropriation FY 25	Governor Recommended		Legislative	
				FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
Personal Services	1,602,883	1,771,409	2,193,528	2,279,065	2,279,065	2,288,944	2,288,944
Other Expenses	238,125	384,443	332,907	461,482	461,482	461,482	461,482
Equipment	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
Other Current Expenses							
Fringe Benefits	1,501,846	1,549,302	1,991,474	1,686,508	1,686,508	1,724,601	1,724,601
Indirect Overhead	56,441	90,972	90,972	157,648	157,648	157,648	157,648
Agency Total - Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund	3,401,495	3,798,326	4,611,081	4,586,903	4,586,903	4,634,875	4,634,875

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Policy Revisions

Provide Funding for New Positions Related to PA 25-173

Personal Services	-	-	189,879	189,879	189,879	189,879
Fringe Benefits	-	-	158,093	158,093	158,093	158,093
Total - Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund	-	-	347,972	347,972	347,972	347,972
Positions - Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund	-	-	2	2	2	2

Background

PA 25-173, *An Act Concerning Energy Affordability, Access and Accountability*, made several changes in laws affecting electric rates, utility regulation, and related state agencies, resulting in the need for additional staff across various state agencies.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$347,972 and two new positions, in both FY 26 and FY 27, associated with the requirements contained within PA 25-173. The two new positions include: a Utilities Finance Specialist with an annual salary of \$90,309 (and corresponding fringe benefits of \$75,191) and a Staff Attorney 2 with an annual salary of \$99,570 (and corresponding fringe benefits of \$82,902.)

Eliminate Funding for Broadband Consultants

Personal Services	-	-	(180,000)	(180,000)	(180,000)	(180,000)
Fringe Benefits	-	-	(120,000)	(120,000)	(120,000)	(120,000)
Total - Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund	-	-	(300,000)	(300,000)	(300,000)	(300,000)

Legislative

Reduce funding by \$300,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27, associated with broadband consultants.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Transfer Funding from the Office of Policy and Management

Legislative

Section 182 of PA 25-174, the FY 26 and FY 27 Bond Bill, makes available \$300,000 from the Office of Policy and Management, in FY 26, to support existing positions within the Office of Consumer Counsel for staffing the Office of State Broadband.

Current Services

Adjust Fringe Benefits to Reflect Actual Rates

Fringe Benefits	(304,966)	(304,966)	(304,966)	(304,966)	-	-
Total - Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund	(304,966)	(304,966)	(304,966)	(304,966)	-	-

Background

The fringe benefit costs for employees supported by funds other than the General Fund are budgeted within their respective agencies, as opposed to the fringe benefits account within the Office of the State Comptroller.

Governor

Reduce funding by \$304,966 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect necessary funds for fringe benefits.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Increase Funding for Other Expenses

Other Expenses	128,575	128,575	128,575	128,575	-	-
Total - Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund	128,575	128,575	128,575	128,575	-	-

Governor

Provide funding of \$128,575 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to support training expenses, technical consultants, and computer upgrades.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Annualize the Cost of Existing Wage Agreements

Personal Services	85,537	85,537	85,537	85,537	-	-
Total - Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund	85,537	85,537	85,537	85,537	-	-

Background

The Governor's Recommended Budget provides funding of \$124.4 million in FY 26 and FY 27, across nine appropriated funds, to reflect current wage-related adjustments resulting from existing wage agreements.

Governor

Provide funding of \$85,537 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to reflect this agency's increased wage costs.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Fund Indirect Overhead at Comptroller's Projected Amount

Indirect Overhead	66,676	66,676	66,676	66,676	-	-
Total - Consumer Counsel and Public Utility Control Fund	66,676	66,676	66,676	66,676	-	-

Background

Agencies funded outside the General Fund are charged with indirect overhead costs by the Office of the State Comptroller for utilizing certain centralized state agency services.

Account	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27

Governor

Provide funding of \$66,676 in both FY 26 and FY 27 to ensure sufficient funds for indirect overhead.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - PF	4,611,081	4,611,081	4,611,081	4,611,081	-	-
Policy Revisions	-	-	47,972	47,972	47,972	47,972
Current Services	(24,178)	(24,178)	(24,178)	(24,178)	-	-
Total Recommended - PF	4,586,903	4,586,903	4,634,875	4,634,875	47,972	47,972

Positions	Governor Recommended		Legislative		Difference from Governor	
	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27	FY 26	FY 27
FY 25 Appropriation - PF	21	21	21	21	-	-
Policy Revisions	-	-	2	2	2	2
Total Recommended - PF	21	21	23	23	2	2