

Public Utilities Commission

Governor's FY 2025 Revised, FY 2026, and Capital
Budget Recommendations

House Fiscal Staff Presentation to the

House Finance Subcommittee on General Government

March 25, 2025

Structure

Commission

Quasi-judicial tribunal that holds investigations & hearings on rates, tariffs, tolls, & utilities' charges

3 Commissioners appointed by Gov to 6-year term

Division

Enforces Commission rules & regs

Party in utility dockets

Defender of rate payers before federal agencies

Jurisdiction over common carriers & cable TV

1 Administrator appointed by Gov to 6-year term

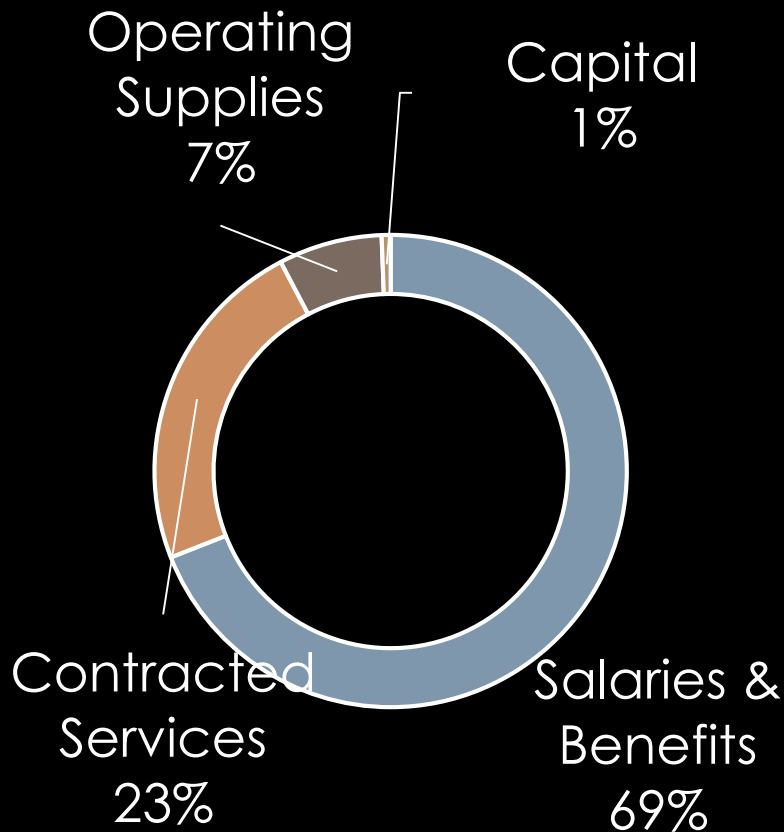
Utilities Assessment

- Rhode Island General Law §39-1-23
 - Division Administrator determines agency's expenses for the coming fiscal year
 - 100% assessed to state's regulated utilities
 - Those with gross state revenues less than \$0.1 million exempt

Summary by Source	FY 2025 Enacted	FY 2025 Revised	FY 2026 Governor	Chg. to Enacted
Federal Funds	\$0.7	\$0.7	\$0.8	\$0.0
Restricted Receipts	13.9	14.3	14.8	0.9
Total	\$14.6	\$15.0	\$15.5	\$0.9
FTE	57.0	57.0	57.0	-

\$ in millions

Summary by Category



FY	FTE	
	Authorized	Filled
2016	50.0	46.1
2017	51.0	47.6
2018	51.0	48.0
2019	53.0	47.3
2020	52.0	48.1
2021	52.0	48.8
2022	54.0	50.0
2023	54.0	50.8
2024	54.0	53.9
2025	57.0	49.9

Staffing

FY 2025 ENACTED BUDGET

- 3 new FTE added
 - Chief financial analyst for the **Commission**
 - Converted to an attorney and filled
 - Deputy chief of legal services for **Division**
 - Internal promotion
 - Administrative clerk/paralegal for **Division**
 - Filled

CURRENT VACANCIES

- Consumer agent
- Admin assistant
- Rate analyst
- PUC Commissioner
- Pipeline safety inspector
- 2 deputy attorneys

Microgrid Consultant

- \$100,000 for FY 2026
 - Consultant to advise in developing a rate structure to integrate microgrids into the state's power system
 - Same as enacted
- Consultant began work in July

Gas Pipeline Safety

- \$0.7 million from federal gas pipeline safety grant
 - Supports inspection and enforcement activities for state gas and hazardous liquid pipeline safety programs
 - \$75,000 for contracted services
 - Shared with Reserve Account
 - \$0.6 million for salaries and benefits
 - \$24,601 more than enacted

Affordable Clean Energy Security

- Affordable Clean Energy Security Act
 - Signed into law June 29, 2022
 - Electric distribution companies can charge up to \$200,000 in fees to offshore wind energy bidders
 - Funds will primarily be used for contracted services the Commission may hire to review energy procurement activities
- Governor recommends \$200,000 from restricted receipts as requested

Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council Projects

- Assembly authorized use of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds to the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4)
 - In Department of Administration's budget
- Governor shifts funding to agencies that will work to achieve Council's goals
 - \$175,000 for contracted services
 - \$100K in FY 2025 and \$75K in FY 2026
 - Reflects spending plan

Dual Party Phone Relay Services

- State law requires the Commission to provide a funding mechanism to recover costs of providing this service
 - Funds come from each residence and business telephone access line in the state
- Governor recommends \$168,415
 - \$150,000 less than enacted
 - Corrects how fund transfers appear in budget
 - \$100,000 to Commission on Deaf & Hard of Hearing
 - \$50,000 to DHS

Energy Facility Siting Board

- Regulates issuance of licenses to construct major energy facilities
 - All expenditures related to investigation are billed back to applicants
 - Funds primarily used for expert witnesses, financial services, stenographers, print advertising notices, & advisory opinions
- Governor recommends \$225,000
 - Same as enacted for many years
 - Spending usually far below enacted

Fiscal Year	Spent
2019	\$76,555
2020	\$2,304
2021	\$7,319
2022	\$47,706
2023	\$53,204
2024	\$26,076

Public Utilities Reserve Account

- Governor recommends \$2M
 - Same as enacted for many years
- Funds used for investigation & hearing expenses for rate cases and other filings
- Expenses billed back to utility company
 - Up to \$750k per state proceeding
 - Up to \$250k per federal proceedings
 - Spending is usually far below enacted

Fiscal Year	Spent
2019	\$1,033,921
2020	\$1,209,750
2021	\$915,605
2022	\$825,375
2023	\$1,020,094
2024	\$1,339,582

Transportation Network Company Regulatory Oversight

- RIGL Section 39-14.2-5 allows the Division to regulate transportation network companies (Uber/Lyft)
- Governor recommends \$65,333 for FY 2026
 - \$11,876 less than enacted
 - Personnel, office supplies, travel, & print advertising

Fiscal Year	Spent
2019	\$41,108
2020	\$53,321
2021	\$54,118
2022	\$53,961
2023	\$53,776
2024	\$53,916

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