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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7884

BILL NUMBER: SB 481

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 15, 2003

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Broadband Internet Service.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Ford

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: GENERAL
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to report annually to the Regulatory Flexibility Committee on the availability and quality of broadband Internet service in Indiana. The bill requires the Committee to study various issues concerning the availability and quality of broadband Internet service in Indiana and to report annually to the Legislative Council on its findings and recommendations. The bill provides that the Committee may recommend that the IURC adopt rules concerning the provision of digital subscriber line (DSL) broadband service by local exchange carriers or their affiliates. The bill allows the IURC to adopt rules to implement any of the Committee's recommendations and to implement the deployment of broadband Internet service in Indiana.

Effective Date: July 1, 2003.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *IURC:* This bill require the IURC annually to investigate and report the effects of regulation, competition, pricing, deployment, and other market forces on the availability of broadband Internet service in Indiana to the Regulatory Flexibility Committee. This provision will increase the Commission's administrative cost; however, it is presumed that any increased cost can be absorbed using existing staff and resources.

Regulatory Flexibility Committee: The bill adds the study and review of issues related to the broadband Internet deployment in Indiana to the charges of the Regulatory Flexibility Committee. The bill provides that the Committee may meet on the call of the co-chairs to study the issues in the bill. The members of the Committee receive the same per diem, mileage, and travel allowances paid to individuals who serve on interim study committees, and all funds necessary to carry out the bill are paid from appropriations to the Legislative Council and Legislative Services Agency. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have

established budgets for interim study committees ranging \$12,000 to \$18,500 per interim for committees with 16 members or more. The Legislative Council and Legislative Services Agency are funded with state General Fund dollars.

The Legislative Services Agency provides staff to the Committee.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; Regulatory Flexibility Committee; Legislative Services Agency.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources:

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