153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**SENATE BILL NO. 288**
SPONSOR:	**Senator Walsh**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 26 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES, IN RELATION TO THE RESILIENCY, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND QUALITY OF BROADBAND NETWORKS AND VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VOIP) SERVICE.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act, known as the Broadband Resiliency, Public Safety, and Quality Act, becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.
2. This Act provides additional regulatory authority to the Delaware Public Service Commission ("PSC") of broadband service and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) networks operating in Delaware. The Act requires the PSC to promulgate regulations and grants the PSC the power to investigate, audit, and inspect any broadband service or VoIP provider's facilities. Additionally, the Act also establishes requirements for public reporting processes to receive and address complaints, as well as annual reporting requirements.
3. The PSC anticipates additional administrative and operational duties as a result of this Act. It anticipates a need for additional personnel to assist with varying investigative and audit responsibilities, facility inspections, and other duties established by this Act. The Fiscal Year 2027 costs are estimated at $170,982, and one-time costs are estimated at $14,000 and are as follows:
   a. Recurring Costs – $170,982
      1. $167,822 in the Fiscal Year 2027 Personnel Costs (9 months of funding), including OECs at 33.41%, for 1.0 FTE, Public Utility Analyst III, and 1.0 FTE, Engineer II.
      2. $3,160 for projected contractual service needs relating to the Department of Technology and Information SEUS (Secure End User Services) costs and the Department of Human Resources eSTAR timekeeping costs, and supplies and materials needs relating to the establishment of the new position.
   b. One-Time Costs – $14,000 for computer and technology equipment, and office furniture startup costs for the new position.
4. All Fiscal Year 2027 personnel costs have been estimated for nine months of funding, with the annualization of the remaining three months incorporated into subsequent year estimates. Additionally, a 2% inflation factor has been included to account for projected increases in salaries, health insurance, and OECs.
5. Pursuant to 26 Del. C. § 116(a), the Delaware Public Utility Regulatory Revolving Fund (the "Fund") shall be used in the operation of the various functions and duties required of the PSC. Therefore, this fiscal projection assumes that the Fund shall be used to support the projected personnel and operational needs of this Act.

Cost:

	Appropriated Special Fund Recurring/Operating Costs	Appropriated Special Fund One-Time Costs
Fiscal Year 2027:	$170,982	$14,000
Fiscal Year 2028:	$231,398	
Fiscal Year 2029:	$235,963	

Prepared by Jason R. Smith
Office of the Controller General