

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Scott's surprise pick: I'll 'focus on trying to do the right thing'

■ Former state Rep. Ritch Workman, a Republican from Melbourne, was appointed to a four-year term on the state utility board, and despite having no experience, he says he's prepared to embrace the job.

BY MARY ELLEN KLAS
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TALLAHASSEE

The former state legislator and Uber driver Gov. Rick Scott named to regulate the state's

utilities used his clout to block efforts to put a measure on the 2014 ballot to make it easier for businesses to install solar panels — the same month he partied with a Duke Energy lobbyist — and routinely used his political committee to finance daily meals



Workman

hobby farm and most recently worked as a business developer for Keiser University. A Repub-

and expenses.

Ritch Workman, 44, the governor's surprise pick to replace Ronald A. Brisé on the Public Service Commission, has no utility experience, runs a

lican from Melbourne, Workman told a reporter in 2015 that he took a job driving for Uber during the legislative session because he had "idle hands and a big family and needed some extra income."

But the affable legislator, who has six kids between him and his second wife, also used his time in Tallahassee to host at least 32 "fundraisers" over three years,

which he used to pay for meals, hotels and rental cars, according to expenditure reports for his political committee filed with the Florida Division of Elections.

It's all now part of a record that Workman said he wants to distance himself from.

"I look forward to the day when stories about me no longer

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