

HB 2066 -- Missouri Clean Energy Technology Center

Sponsor: Morris

This bill establishes the Missouri Clean Energy Technology Center to promote and develop jobs in the clean energy field, promote research and workforce training in clean energy at Missouri's colleges and vocational technical schools, and stimulate the creation and development of new clean energy ventures that will form the foundation of a strong Missouri clean energy industry.

The center must be physically housed within the offices of the Department of Natural Resources but will not be subject to supervision by the department or any other state board, bureau, or other state department. The center will be governed by a 13-member board of directors. The board may employ staff and consultants as it determines necessary to fulfill its duties. The center will have all the powers necessary to carry out its purposes including rulemaking authority and accepting, investing, and distributing funds as it determines appropriate to its mission. It must annually submit a report on its operations, receipts and expenditures, and assets and liabilities to the Governor, Office of Administration, and General Assembly.

The center must hold an application process for the investment of funds in research, workforce training, and job development in the clean energy field and promote clean energy programs that encourage economic self-sufficiency for low and moderate income individuals and communities. The center is authorized to establish the Missouri Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Institute and an Entrepreneurial Fellowship Program for existing entrepreneurs wanting to invest in the state's clean energy field.

The Clean Energy Seed Grant Program, Green Jobs Initiative, and Pathways Out of Poverty Initiative are established within the center. The center must commission a study of the clean energy sector in Missouri including future workforce needs. A copy of the study must be submitted by February 1, 2012, to the General Assembly.

The Missouri Alternative and Clean Energy Investment Trust Fund is created which will be administered by the center. The center will, in consultation with a 15-member advisory board appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, invest and reinvest the moneys in the fund. The bill specifies the approved uses of moneys in the fund which include making qualified investments in clean energy research and business development, making loans and grants available for these purposes, funding clean energy sector studies, and funding the administration of the center. The General Assembly may annually

appropriate up to \$2 million to the fund.