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HCS HB 1804 -- STATE ENERGY PLANS

SPONSOR: Miller

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Energy and the Environment by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Committee on Utilities by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill requires the Comprehensive State Energy Plan implemented by the Division of Energy be reviewed and updated if necessary by the division by January 1, 2017, and biennially thereafter. The division must review the plan to ensure it meets specified criteria. To conduct the review, the division must use a diverse stakeholder system or contract with a Missouri-based not-for-profit organization who meets specific requirements. The division must issue a report, along with the review, that suggests policy changes needed to meet set criteria.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would require a State Energy Plan, which is a road map for the future energy needs of the state. The plan would be reviewed each year to ensure that the state is on the right path. Many industries look for an energy plan when deciding where to locate and this plan would provide them with information on the energy resources and planning in Missouri.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Miller; Association of Missouri Electric Coops; Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities; and Josh Campbell, Missouri Energy Initiative.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the current energy plan asserts state command and control of the energy resources of the state. This bill furthers that command and should not limit the state's energy opportunities.

Testifying against the bill was United For Missouri.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the process used by the Division of Energy to create the current Energy Plan was laborious and any new planning requirements need to ensure that the process brings value to the customers of the state.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Energy Development Association.