

HCS HB 750 -- SMALL MODULAR NUCLEAR REACTORS

SPONSOR: Korman

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Innovation and Technology by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill sets a nuclear energy mandate of 2% of retail sales of electrical power for those utilities regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission if Missouri has a functioning small modular nuclear reactor facility that has produced at least three reactors that are legally available for sale and use. The commission may impose time limits not less than three years in length for the mandate and may also waive the requirement in cases where there is undue hardship due to a decrease in energy demand. A utility may petition the commission to satisfy the 2% generation requirement with renewable energy resources or credits.

The bill also creates an exception to annual benefit limits under current job creation, worker training, and infrastructure development programs with regard to the construction and use of Small Modular Nuclear Reactor (SMR) production facilities. These facilities are defined in the bill as producers of nuclear reactors based on fission technology that produce less than 300 megawatts of power. The aggregate amount of benefits under current job creation, worker training, and infrastructure programs for a SMR production facility is capped at \$150 million per year.

This bill is similar to HB 822 (2015).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill provides a flexible legal framework for the creation of small modular nuclear reactor energy resources throughout the state. Nuclear energy is safe and environmentally friendly.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Korman.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say utilities are excited about the prospects of small modular nuclear technology, and that rural cooperatives are open to the idea of using small modular nuclear reactors to fulfill their energy needs.

Testifying on the bill were the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives and Ameren MO.