

HCS HB 892 -- RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS

SPONSOR: Black (137)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Utilities by a vote of 10 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 892.

This bill requires the Public Service Commission to adopt a renewable natural gas program for gas corporations. The Commission must establish reporting requirements and a process for gas corporations to fully recover prudent, just, and reasonable costs associated with a renewable natural gas program.

Any prudent, just, and reasonable costs incurred by a gas corporation are recovered by means of an automatic adjustment clause. The costs will include costs to establish and maintain equipment and facilities deemed prudent at the time the initial investment was made.

An affiliate of a gas corporation can not be prohibited from making a capital investment in a biogas production project if the affiliate is not a public utility.

This bill is the same as SB 141 (2021).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would allow for the deployment of technology to capture methane gas to be used as biogas, a renewable source of energy. The capture and use of biogases from landfills and agricultural operations improves the air quality near these facilities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Black; Brandon Butler, Roeslein Alternative Energy; Summit Utilities; Liberty Utilities; Missouri Energy Development Association; Spire Mo; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Additional written testimony was submitted in support of the bill.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill would be a good pilot program to help spur development of technology, but should not be a statewide program. By allowing a surcharge for the projects, it does not allow for a development in a economically competitive way.

Testifying against the bill was the Consumers Council of Missouri. Additional written testimony was submitted in opposition to the bill.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.