

HCS HB 1753 -- CLOSURE OF ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS

SPONSOR: Pollitt

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Utilities by a vote of 12 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1753.

This bill specifies that prior to the closure of an existing electric generating power plant, an electrical corporation, registered and doing business in Missouri, must first certify that it has secured and placed on the electric grid an equal or greater than the amount of replacement reliable electric generation as specified in the bill. Adequate transmission infrastructure necessary to interconnect the new reliable electric generation to the State's electric grid and to transmit electricity must be fully operational before the closure of the existing electric generating power plant. If the replacement electric generation uses some or all of the interconnection facilities used by the existing generation plant, the replacement facilities must be operational within 180 days of the closure of the existing plant. If the existing plant is closed as a result of an unexpected or unplanned cause or event, the electrical corporation must install replacement generation as soon as practicable.

The bill also specifies that the average of the summer and winter accredited capacity of the new generation must be greater or equal to the average of the summer and winter accredited capacity of the existing generation. The Public Service Commission must certify that these requirements are met.

Before the official date of the existing electric generating power plant closure, the electric utility company must provide certification to the Commission, the General Assembly, and the Governor that it has met the necessary requirements.

The bill has an emergency clause.

This bill is the same as SB 757 (2024).

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 the energy sector is moving to renewable energy generation at a rapid rate. Renewable power requires more than a greater amount of land than other generation options. Missouri investor-owned utilities have committed to retiring several baseload generation assets and are expanding their renewable generation assets. In recent years, Missouri has seen a steady erosion of the reliability and stability of the power grid. This bill would require investor-owned utilities to ensure that there is enough power supply to provide the needed electricity for the State.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Pollitt; Missouri Farm Bureau; Associated Industries Of Missouri; Evergy; Randy Eminger, Energy Policy Network; Richard Axelbaum; and Warren Wood, Ameren Missouri.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill provides a formula that only allows for the same amount of power generation or more. It does not take into account reductions in energy demand from efficiency, population losses or the plague. The management of the necessary generation is the job of the Public Service Commission.

Testifying in person against the bill was Sierra Club Missouri Chapter.

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