

HB 2832 -- MEMBERS OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

SPONSOR: Haffner

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 11 to 3, with 2 voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Regulatory Oversight by a vote of 5 to 2 with 1 present.

Currently, the Public Service Commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor, with advice and consent of the Senate. The bill increases the number of members to seven, with not more than one from each Congressional district. In addition, at least one member must have experience in finance, one member must have experience in the utility sector, and two members must have been engaged in farming.

This bill is similar to HB 1747 (2024) and HB 1044 (2023).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that recent actions by the Public Service Commission have shown little to no thought for landowners affected by the Commission's decisions. Rural Missouri, especially farmers and ranchers, need to have a voice in the decisions that proportionally effect more rural landowners. New transmission lines do not typically run through urban and suburban areas.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Haffner; Missouri Farm Bureau; Missouri Corn Growers Association; Roger Fischer, Callaway County; Missouri Soybean Association; Catherine Vogelweid; Charles Greg Crawford; Susan Burns; and Missouri Cattlemens Association.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that the Public Service Commission acts more as a judicial body and having specific industries represented on the Commission would not be beneficial. There may be a better way to have the agriculture industry's voice represented in proceedings.

Testifying in person against the bill were Missouri Energy Development Association; Sierra Club Missouri Chapter; and Spire Missouri Natural Gas.

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.