

HCS HB 476 -- CLOSURE OF ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS

SPONSOR: Pollitt

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Utilities by a vote of 17 to 2, with 1 voting present.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 476.

Beginning January 1, 2026, 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 amount of reliable electric generation as specified in the bill. Adequate transmission lines must be in place and the replacement generation fully operational concurrently with the closure of the existing electric generating 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 follow the procedures established in the bill, including filing an application with the Public Service Commission outlining its plan to install replacement reliable electric generation. During any periods where the replacement power is not fully operational, the electrical corporation must make all reasonable efforts to contract for additional firm generating capacity to meet the planning reserve margin requirement of the regional transmission operator.

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, with consideration of the electrical corporation's anticipated loss of load. The Public Service Commission must certify that these requirements are met. If the Public Service Commission receives information that the electrical corporation has experienced a significant and long-term loss of load, the commission must determine if replacement generation is in the public interest.

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.

This bill is the same as HB 1753 (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 in recent years, Missouri has seen a steady erosion of the reliability and stability of the power grid. The regional transmission operators have forecasted a deficiency in energy capacity for the State in the near future. 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; Ameren Missouri; Evergy; Missouri Chamber of Commerce; and United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union No. 562.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill is designed for a grid of the past and does not take into account new generation technologies or reductions in energy demand from efficiency. The management of the necessary generation is the job of the Public Service Commission.

Testifying in person against the bill were Arnie Dienoff; and Sierra Club.

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.