

HCS HBs 1263 & 1124 -- WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS

SPONSOR: Nolte

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Rural Issues by a vote of 10 to 0 with 1 voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 9 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 1263 & 1124.

This bill prohibits a new "Wind Energy Conversion System", as defined in the bill, to begin commercial operations after August 28, 2025, unless that developer, owner, or operator applies to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for installation of a light-mitigating technology system. If the installation is approved by the FAA, the developer, owner, or operator of such wind energy conversion system must install the light-mitigating technology system on approved turbines within 24 months of approval.

Before August 28, 2030, any developer, owner, or operator of a commercial wind energy conversion system without a light-mitigating technology system must apply to the FAA for installation and operation of a system. If the installation is approved by the FAA, the developer, owner, or operator must install the system on approved turbines within 24 months of approval.

Any vendor selected for installation of a light-mitigating technology system must provide to the Department of Natural Resources notice of the progress of the installation of the system. If the installation is delayed beyond the 24-month requirement, the vendor must provide notice to the Department at least every three months, with an update on the reasons for the delay and current status of installation. Any costs associated with the installation, implementation, operation, and maintenance of the system must be the responsibility of the developer, owner, or operator of the wind energy conversion system.

Any developer, owner, or operator that is approved for to install a light-mitigating system but does not, is liable for a fine of \$5,000 per day, per turbine, until the system is installed.

This bill is similar to HB 1124.

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 constant flashing lights are a nuisance to those living near wind energy systems. This bill would provide relief to residents while still maintaining safety for air traffic.

Testifying in person for the bill was Representative Nolte.

OPPONENTS: No opposition was voiced to the committee.

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.