

HCS HB 2248 -- UTILITY GROWTH PROJECTS

SPONSOR: Hurlbert

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Utilities by a vote of 18 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2248.

Currently an electric customer with a growth project of more than 10 megawatts and load factor of at least 55% receives a discount percentage equal to 120% of the cost to serve the applicant and the discount is for 10 years. This bill would change the discount to equal 35%, cap projects at 75 megawatts, and limit the discount to five years, provided it meets certain criteria.

The bill repeals the provision setting the method for determining the variable cost to serve a new load.

An applicant is not eligible for a discount if it is determined by the electrical corporation to be a nonqualifying facility, as defined in the bill.

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 modernize the economic development rates and ensure that the rates are being used for and to attract businesses and industrial developments that create jobs in the State.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Hurlbert; MO Chamber of Commerce; Evergy; and Ameren Missouri.

OPponents: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the economic development rates are good for new customers but that the program should be expanded to include incentives to retain and expand current businesses in the State.

Testifying in person on the bill was Ford Motor Company.

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.