

HB 551 -- Electrical Suppliers

Sponsor: Schlottach

Currently, territorial agreements between rural electric cooperatives, electrical corporations, and municipally owned utilities designate the boundaries of the electric service area of each supplier. When the parties cannot agree, they may, by mutual consent, petition the Missouri Public Service Commission to determine the boundaries of the electric service areas. The commission also has jurisdiction to hear complaints involving any commission-approved territorial agreement. This bill allows a city, town, or village that has a pending annexation to petition the commission to determine the boundaries of the electric service areas to be served by either the municipal utility, electrical corporation, or electric cooperative. The commission will rule on the application within 90 days of the filing by the municipality. Additionally, the commission will hold an evidentiary hearing regarding any commission-approved territorial agreement complaints.

Prior to any annexation, every city, town, or village must ensure that there is an adequate supply of electric service to the area to be annexed. Any grant of authority to an electric cooperative to serve all or part of the annexed area will not affect, amend, modify, or diminish in any way the rights of any other electric supplier to provide service in the annexed area. However, no city, town, or village will demand that a municipal utility, electrical corporation, or an electric cooperative transfer any of its electric facilities or customers to another electric provider.

The bill contains an emergency clause.