

## HB 1488 -- Regulation of Public Utilities

Sponsor: Pollock

This bill changes the laws regarding the regulation of public utilities. The total amount of assessments to all public utilities to fund the Missouri Public Service Commission is reduced from a maximum of one-fourth of 1% to twenty-three hundredths of 1% of the total gross intrastate operating revenues of all utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the commission. The Office of Public Counsel within the commission is allowed to be funded by a maximum of three hundredths of 1% of the total gross intrastate operating revenues of all utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the commission and the amount allocated to telecommunications companies cannot exceed 3% of the total estimated expenses directly attributable to the public counsel's responsibilities. The Public Counsel Fund is created to be used solely for the payment of expenditures actually incurred by the public counsel attributable to his or her responsibilities. The public counsel will be allowed to attribute regulatory expenses in the same manner as the commission for the purpose of receiving a proportion of gross operating revenue. Rules for providing statements to the public counsel so that expenses may be estimated are specified in the bill.

The duties of the public counsel are changed so that he or she may represent and protect the interests of residential, small commercial, and agricultural customers in any proceeding before or an appeal from the commission. Currently, he or she may represent and protect the interests of the public.

The bill specifies the procedure for a rate adjustment due to the underrecovery and overrecovery of utility charges based on a rate case or a complaint. The calculation to determine the amount of overrecovery or underrecovery is specified in the bill. The amount must be reflected as a temporary rate adjustment over a one-year period.