

HCS HB 2209 -- PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STAFF

SPONSOR: Barnes

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Utility Infrastructure by a vote of 19 to 0.

Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Utilities by a vote of 11 to 0.

This bill repeals limits on the number of technical staff employed by the commission and repeals the mandatory requirement to hire staff. There is a limit of ten employees with reference to the technical staff requirements of the substitute, but it also retains current law allowing each commissioner to have an advisor. It also contains conflict of interest provisions which prohibit technical staff and personal advisors from working on cases that they were involved with prior to being hired by the commission and requiring them to abide by the same ethics requirements as commissioners.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will allow greater flexibility in hiring technical staff at the Public Service Commission and increase the amount of expert knowledge and analysis available to commissioners.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Barnes and Amy Moore, Missouri Public Service Commission.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill offered to provide information and mentioned that in certain cases a large pool of technical specialists could become inefficient.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Energy Development Association.