

HCS SB 72 -- WIND ENERGY

SPONSOR: O'Laughlin (Andrews)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Utilities by a vote of 13 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 0.

This bill specifies that any real or tangible personal property associated with a project which uses wind energy directly to generate electricity shall be valued and taxed by any state and local authorities having jurisdiction and establishes the "Task Force on Wind Energy." The task force will be comprised of six members including three members from the House of Representatives, three members from the Senate, and two members from county government with experience in wind energy valuations. The task force must conduct public hearings, research, and compile a report for the General Assembly by December 31, 2019 regarding the economic benefits of wind turbines, statewide assessment and taxation of wind turbines and their connected equipment at the county level, compliance with state and federal programs and regulations, and legislation that would provide a uniform assessment and taxation methodology for wind turbines.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would allow the tax revenue generated by the wind energy project to stay in the local jurisdiction. Without this bill, that additional tax revenue would be spread across the state, with little to no revenue remaining in the local jurisdiction.

Testifying for the bill were Senator O'Laughlin; Wendy Nordwald, Missouri Assessor's Association; Carolyn Chrisman, Kirksville Regional Economic Development, Incorporation; Monica M. Bailey, Atchison County Development Corporation; Missouri Farm Bureau; Ameren Missouri; Invenergy; and Sierra Club Missouri Chapter.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.