

HCS SCS SB 131 -- DISTRIBUTION OF ENERGY

SPONSOR: Emery (Kidd)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Utilities by a vote of 8 to 6. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 2.

This bill modifies the laws relating to the distribution of energy.

EMINENT DOMAIN

The bill specifies that no private entity has the power of eminent domain for the purposes of constructing above-ground merchant lines (Section 523.262, RSMo).

TRESPASS EXEMPTIONS TREE TRIMMING

The bill modifies the definition of "electric supplier" as it relates to the trespass rules for trimming, removing, and controlling trees to include municipally owned electric power systems and utilities (Section 537.340).

COMPREHENSIVE STATE ENERGY PLAN

The bill requires the Missouri Division of Energy to review the comprehensive state energy plan implemented by the division by January 1, 2021. The plan shall be reviewed biennially thereafter to ensure certain listed goals are updated as needed. The division shall use a diverse stakeholder input system either directly or by contracting with a qualified organization, and issue a report along with each review, suggesting policy changes (Section 620.3150).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that we currently have a Comprehensive State Energy Plan that was developed with the input of stakeholders across the state. This bill would ensure that the plan was reviewed and updated, making the plan a useful document in the future.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Emery; Missouri Energy Initiative; Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives; Missouri Energy Development Association; and Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.