

HCS HB 1737 -- ELECTRICITY RESILIENCE

SPONSOR: Hicks

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Special Committee on Homeland Security by a vote of 6 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1737.

This bill authorizes electrical corporations to file requests for cost recovery with the Public Service Commission for investments to improve electricity resilience at critical facilities. The commission must consider certain factors when determining cost recovery for the investments. Approved investments must be supported through cost-recovery mechanisms otherwise approved by the commission and the commission must conduct an annual review of investments to determine their performance in improving critical facility energy resilience.

This bill is the same as HB 1155 (2019).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill allows electrical utility companies to recoup important investments in critical infrastructure in a more timely manner.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Hicks; Michele Combs, Young Conservatives for Energy Reform; Stanley L. Rasmussen, Department of Defense; Renew Missouri; and Missouri American Water.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that SB 54 took care of this problem and as a result our electric bills have risen 40%. Utilities can and will push every cost through this bill and overcharge consumers even more than they are currently.

Testifying against the bill was Midwest Energy Consumers Group.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say this is important to prevent and respond to emergency situations.

Testifying on the bill was Mitchell R. Iken, Young Conservatives For Energy Reform.