

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0231H.01I
Bill No.: HB 261
Subject: Utilities
Type: Original
Date: January 5, 2021

Bill Summary: This proposal allows electrical corporations to charge for services based on the costs of certain construction work in progress.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
General Revenue*	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Other State Funds*	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)

*The State may pay higher initial utility costs if electrical corporations are allowed to charge for services based on the cost of clean baseload generating plant projects or renewable source generating facility projects.

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 7 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$100,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Local Government	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)	\$0 to (Unknown)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Sections 393.135 and 393.1250 - Missouri Nuclear Clean Power Act

Officials from the **Department of Commerce and Insurance - Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC)** state that the PSC is funded by an assessment on Commission-regulated public utilities pursuant to Section 386.370, RSMo, and not by any state general appropriations. Depending on the cumulative effect of all PSC-impacting legislation passed in the current session and the associated increased costs associated with that legislation to the PSC, the PSC may need to request an increase in our appropriation authority and/or FTE allocation as appropriate through the budget process.

Oversight notes that the PSC has stated this individual proposal would not have a direct fiscal impact on their organization. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact to PSC on the fiscal note.

Officials from the **Department of Commerce and Insurance - Office of the Public Counsel** state that this legislation would likely result in additional costs to review in rate cases, and potentially more frequent rate cases to review. The Office of the Public Counsel's resources are allocated where we are best able to represent the interests of customers. While this legislation would not necessarily increase OPC's expenses because it may not create enough additional work to necessitate another FTE, it could have the impact of diverting resources from other important cases and issues.

Oversight assumes the OPC will be able to perform any additional duties required by this proposal with current staff and resources and will not reflect a fiscal impact to the OPC.

Officials from the **Office of Administration - Facilities Management Design and Construction (OA-FMDC)** state that this proposal establishes the Missouri Nuclear Clean Power Act. It would allow costs of Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) to be passed on to retail customers of an electrical corporation in Missouri in order to finance the construction project.

It is assumed that there could be an increase in costs incurred by leased, state owned or institutional facilities managed by FMDC. However, there is no way to know which buildings/facilities could be within the service area of the generating plant/facility that would be able to increase rates in order to cover CWIP. FMDC believes the impact to be \$0 to unknown.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Oversight assumes this proposal allows the Public Service Commission to authorize an electrical corporation to charge for additional amortization to maintain the corporation's financial ratios in order to provide a utility company the opportunity to maintain healthy financial ratios during a major construction project. Oversight assumes the additional amortization will be recouped by various customer classes by rate increases.

Oversight assumes this proposal could increase utility cost for the Office of Administration as well as other state agencies and local governments. Since it is unknown how many additional amortizations will be authorized (if any), Oversight will reflect a range from \$0 (no utility will increase rates) to an unknown cost to the state and local political subdivisions for higher utility costs.

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR)** assume this proposal is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

Oversight assumes JCAR will be able to administer any rules resulting from this proposal with existing resources.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State** notes many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The Secretary of State's office is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to Secretary of State's office for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The Secretary of State's office recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, we also recognize that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what our office can sustain with our core budget. Therefore, we reserve the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

Officials from the **Department of Natural Resource** and the **Missouri Department of Transportation** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for these agencies.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Cost - Office of Administration</u> Potential increase in electric utility costs	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>
VARIOUS STATE FUNDS			
<u>Cost - Various State Agencies</u> Potential increase in electric utility costs	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO VARIOUS STATE FUNDS	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2022 (10 Mo.)	FY 2023	FY 2024
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Cost - Local Governments</u> Potential increase in electric utility costs	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT TO LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>	\$0 to <u>(Unknown)</u>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

Small businesses could have an increase in utility cost as a result of this proposal.

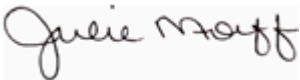
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill creates the "Missouri Nuclear Clean Power Act", which allows clean base load electric generating plants or facilities rated at 200 megawatts or more that utilize renewable sources to produce energy not in commercial operation as of August 28, 2021, to charge for costs associated with construction work in progress before the facility is operational. The costs recovered by an electrical corporation are subject to inclusion or exclusion in a ratemaking proceeding under the authority of the Public Service Commission. The Commission may also authorize an electrical corporation to charge for additional amortization to maintain a corporation's financial ratios that will better allow to cost-effectively construct a clean baseload generating plant or a renewable source generating facility.

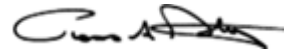
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Commerce and Insurance
Public Service Commission
Office of the Public Counsel
Department of Natural Resources
Office of Administration
Department of Transportation
Missouri Department of Conservation
Office of the Secretary of State
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules



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Director
January 5, 2021



Ross Strobe
Assistant Director
January 5, 2021