

HCS HB 1076 & 1302 -- RENEWABLE ENERGY

SPONSOR: Holsman (Wyatt)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Special Standing on Renewable Energy by a vote of 9 to 1.

This substitute changes the laws regarding renewable energy. In its main provisions, the substitute:

(1) Establishes the Capital Green Program to provide funding for weatherization and energy efficiency improvements to the State Capitol Building and the Governor's Mansion and for the exploration of potential pilot programs utilizing geothermal, wind, and solar energy resources and to install a network of environmentally friendly free-flow turbine generators in the Missouri River to provide power to the State Capitol Building and the Governor's Mansion. If surplus energy is generated, it may also be used to provide power to the Harry S Truman Office Building, Missouri Supreme Court Building, and James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center. The Capital Green Program Fund is created which will consist of appropriations from the General Assembly, gifts, bequests, and donations to be used solely for the administration of the program;

(2) Establishes the Homeowners' Solar Rights Act which prohibits a homeowners' association, common interest community association, or condominium unit owners' association from adopting a bylaw, deed restriction, covenant, or other binding agreement that prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting the installation of a solar energy system. An association may determine the specific location where a solar system may be installed on a roof as specified in the substitute if it does not inhibit the effective operation of the solar energy system. Timelines for the installation and approval of solar energy systems by associations are specified in the substitute. The costs and reasonable attorney fees of any litigation regarding these provisions are to be attributed to the prevailing party. These provisions do not apply to any building which is greater than 30 feet in height; and

(3) Establishes the Renewable Energy Pilot Program for State Parks which requires the Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the Missouri Public Service Commission, to develop and implement a pilot program with the goal of achieving 100% energy use from renewable energy resources in a department-selected state park by August 28, 2018. The department must attempt to use as many energy-efficient products as possible within the park. Beginning August 28, 2012, the department must annually submit a report to the General Assembly

documenting progress toward the goal and proposing alternative suggestions for future implementation until the pilot project is complete;

The provisions of the substitute regarding the Capital Green Program will expire six years after the effective date.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters of HB 1076 say that the bill will help the state develop a model for saving energy in state parks.

Supporters of HB 1302 say that it will save money in the long run and it would be very prudent to provide hydroelectric and solar power to the Capitol Building so that it can function in all circumstances. The Capitol Building is well suited to be a model for the use of renewable energy.

Testifying for HB 1076 were Representative Wyatt; Missouri Solar Energy Industries Association; and Missouri Conservation Environmental Alliance.

Testifying for HB 1302 were Representative Holsman; Missouri Solar Energy Industries Association; and Missouri Conservation Environmental Alliance.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on HB 1076 say that there is currently a backlog of projects for state parks and the bill is not a mandate. It might take time to implement the bill. State parks currently need \$200 million in capital improvements.

Testifying on HB 1076 was Missouri Park and Recreation Association.