

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 4287S.01I  
 Bill No.: SB 763  
 Subject: Cooperatives; Corporations; Energy; Public Service Commission; Utilities  
 Type: Original  
 Date: February 22, 2022

Bill Summary: Modifies provisions relating to net metering.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
General Revenue*	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\*The Department of Natural Resources – Division of Energy is required to oversee the distributed energy resources study (estimated to cost \$300,000), which is to be paid for through funds available from federal and state grants. DNR states two potential, but uncertain funding possibilities exist. DNR-DE has federal funds associated with a previous grant in a revolving loan fund that can potentially be repurposed for use to pay the contractor. Also, funds available from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) could be used. If the federal funding sources are not available, the study may need to be paid by state General Revenue.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
Federal Funds*	(\$300,000)	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>(\$300,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\*The Department of Natural Resources – Division of Energy is required to oversee the distributed energy resources study (estimated to cost \$300,000), which is to be paid for through funds available from federal and state grants. DNR states two potential, but uncertain funding possibilities exist. DNR-DE has federal funds associated with a previous grant in a revolving loan fund that can potentially be repurposed for use to pay the contractor. Also, funds available from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) could be used. Oversight will assume federal funding will be available.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>			

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2023</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>	<b>FY 2025</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### Subsection 386.885.5 –Distributed Energy Resource Study

Officials from the **Department of Natural Resources – Division of Energy (DNR-DE)** state that this legislation requires the DNR-DE to oversee the distributed energy resources study to be selected and conducted by an independent and objective expert with input from the members of the task force. The cost of said study shall be paid for through funds available from federal and state grants applied for by the division of energy. The division of energy shall establish procedures for the submission and non-public disclosure of confidential and proprietary information.

DNR-DE anticipates to be able to identify contractors with experience in conducting distributed energy resource studies. The work will require specialized knowledge of applicable Missouri statutes, electric utility generation, transmission and distribution systems and related costs, distributed energy generation systems and grid integration, wholesale energy market operation and pricing. The language in the bill does not define “distributed energy resources.” The term may be defined broadly, but since this legislation focuses on net metering, DNR-DE assumes that the study contemplated in the legislation will be limited to distributed generation. DNR-DE anticipates the study will require the contractor to meet with the task force, retail electric suppliers and other stakeholders to discuss and finalize the work plan, conduct cost/benefit analyses, and other work as required to fulfill the contract requirements. Based on the revisions, DNR-DE officials do not anticipate the study will be granular, instead focusing on the practical and economic benefits, challenges, and drawbacks of increased distributed energy generation in the state without the requirement of determining specific rates for each retail electric provider.

DNR-DE may not have adequate “...funds available from federal and state grants applied for by the division of energy” to cover this cost in the short term as the grants already applied for by DNR-DE have all funds assigned to other activities. To DNR-DE’s knowledge, there is not any certainty as to the availability of any sufficient federal or state grants that can be readily applied for and awarded in time to pay for this initiative based upon the time constraints contained in the proposal. If no funding opportunities arise, DE would require General Revenue amounting to \$300,000 to fulfill the requirements of this section.

Two potential, but uncertain funding possibilities exist. DNR-DE has federal funds associated with a previous grant in a revolving loan fund that can potentially be repurposed for use to pay the contractor. DNR-DE would be required to submit a request to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) requesting the repurposing of funds. DOE accepts such requests in either January or June, but may be willing to accept such a request outside of those months. Presuming DOE is agreeable to repurposing the funds, the contractor would be required to comply with American

Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) flow-down requirements, which are attached to those funds. DNR-DE anticipate initiating a formal request to DOE for allowance to repurpose up to \$300,000, although DOE's approval of such a repurposing request is not guaranteed.

Additionally, it is possible that funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) could be used. As the bill is currently written, DNR-DE's understanding is that State Energy Program (SEP) funds from the IIJA can be used for any allowable activity under SEP (10 CFR 420). However, usage of such funds for the purpose described in this bill could detract from the ability of DNR-DE to pursue additional opportunities presented by the IIJA, and the exact amount of funding to be received from the IIJA is not certain at this time.

**Oversight** will reflect this cost to federal funds and note the possibility that if federal funding is not available, state General Revenue may be needed.

**DNR-DE** anticipates they will engage stakeholders as part of the study process. However, based on the direction that "House Research and Senate Research shall provide necessary clerical, research, fiscal, and legal services to the task force," DNR-DE anticipates that House Research and Senate Research rather than DNR-DE will have primary responsibility for drafting the study RFP, study contracts, and task force report. DNR-DE will require 1 FTE Research/Data Analyst to coordinate with House Research and Senate Research, provide technical assistance, and to prepare material for review by the task force. This would be a temporary position that would terminate at the end of the project period.

As Section 385.885 expires on December 31, 2022, **Oversight** will assume DNR will not require hiring a new FTE for the few months this FTE may be needed. Therefore, Oversight will assume DNR will be able to implement the provisions of this proposal with existing resources.

Officials from the **Missouri State Senate (SEN)** anticipate a negative fiscal impact to reimburse 3 Senators and 3 Representatives for travel to the Task Force on Distributed Energy Resources and Net Metering meetings. In summary, it will cost approximately \$776.16 (261 miles x \$0.49 (rate per mile) per meeting.

**Oversight** assumes the SEN is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of activity each year. Oversight assumes the SEN could absorb the costs related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require additional staffing and duties at substantial costs, SEN could request funding through the appropriation process.

#### Section 386.890 - Net Metering

Officials from the **Department of Commerce and Insurance - Public Service Commission (PSC)** state that this legislation may require a rulemaking by the PSC in order to implement the provisions. Rulemakings generally result in an estimated cost of up to approximately \$4,700.

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 appropriation authority and/or FTE allocation as appropriate through the budget process.

**Oversight** notes that the PSC has stated their agency should be able to absorb the cost associated with this proposal (depending on cumulative effect of all PSC-impacting legislation passed). Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact on the fiscal note.

Officials from the **Missouri Department of Conservation**, the **Missouri Department of Transportation**, the **Missouri House of Representatives** and the **Office of Administration** each assume this proposal will have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

**Oversight** notes that the above mentioned agencies have stated the 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 on the fiscal note for those agencies.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<u>Cost – DNR - Independent Contractor – to conduct distributed energy resource study</u>	<u>(\$300,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>	<b><u>(\$300,000)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2023 (10 Mo.)	FY 2024	FY 2025
	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

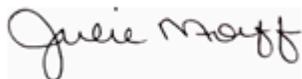
This bill creates the "Task Force on Distributed Energy Resources and Net Metering", consisting of three members of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives, the Director of the Division of Energy, the Chair of the Public Service Commission, and six other members as specified in the bill. The Task Force will conduct hearings and research on the specified information related to net metering. The Task Force shall compile a report for the General Assembly by December 31, 2022. The Task Force shall dissolve on December 31, 2022. The bill also modifies the definitions of "customer-generator", "department", which is changed from the Department of Economic Development to the Department of Natural Resources, and "retail electric supplier", which term now includes municipally owned utilities, as they relate to the Net Metering and Easy Connection Act.

The sale of qualified electric energy units to any customer generator is subject to provisions of law related to consumer protection.

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  
Department of Natural Resources  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Missouri Department of Transportation  
Office of Administration  
Missouri House of Representatives  
Missouri Senate



Julie Morff  
Director  
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Ross Strobe  
Assistant Director  
February 22, 2022