

Legislative study of future electric generation and environmental effects

HB 2713 by Bonnen (Averitt)

DIGEST: HB 2713 would have created a legislative interim study committee to develop a long-term state energy plan, including a study of the state's need for electricity generation capacity and the environmental effects of existing and potential electric generating facilities. The bill also would have directed the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to conduct a study on the potential of electric energy storage devices for use in transmission and distribution systems. The bill further would have allowed the PUC to authorize an electric utility to operate demonstration projects capable of energy storage.

**GOVERNOR'S
REASON FOR
VETO:**

“While I commend the legislature’s efforts to study the state’s demand for electric generation capacity for the next 50 years, the legislature needs no additional statutory authority to conduct such studies.

“House Bill No. 2713 proposes legislative review of existing generation facilities, which would be duplicative. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality already reviews existing generation facilities to ensure they meet the environmental quality standards set forth in state law. The Speaker and Lieutenant Governor can independently assign interim studies to their standing committees if they so chose.”

RESPONSE: Neither Rep. Dennis Bonnen, the bill’s author, nor Sen. Kip Averitt, the Senate sponsor, had a comment on the veto.

NOTES: HB 2713 was digested in Part Two of the April 25 *Daily Floor Report*.