
SUBJECT: Revising membership of electric utility restructuring oversight committee.

COMMITTEE: Regulated Industries — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 4 ayes — King, B. Hunter, Crabb, Guillen
0 nays
3 absent — Turner, Baxter, Wolens

WITNESSES: No public hearing

BACKGROUND: Utilities Code, sec. 39.907 establishes the Electric Utility Restructuring Legislative Oversight Committee, which is composed of six members: the chairs of the House State Affairs Committee and the Senate Economic Development Committee, who serve as joint chairs of the oversight committee; two senators appointed by the lieutenant governor, and two House members appointed by the speaker. The committee is to meet at least annually with the Public Utility Commission (PUC), receive information and submit comments about proposed commission rules relating to electric utility restructuring, review legislative recommendations proposed by the PUC, monitor the effectiveness of electric utility restructuring, including the fairness of rates, the reliability of service, and the effect of stranded costs, market power, and regulation on the normal forces of competition, and report on its activities by November 15 of even-numbered years with an analysis of any problems with restructuring and recommendations for legislative action.

In January 2003, the House amended its rules to transfer legislative jurisdiction over electric utilities and the PUC from the State Affairs Committee to the newly created Regulated Industries Committee.

DIGEST: HB 35 would revise Utilities Code, sec. 39.907 to make the chair of the House Regulated Industries Committee, rather than the House State Affairs Committee, a member and joint chair of the Electric Utility Restructuring Legislative Oversight Committee.

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The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect on the 91st day after the last day of the third called session.