

Senate Bill No. 665 (by Senators Guills, Barnes and Hunter)
referred to Judiciary Committee, Senator Jeff Kessler, Chair

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §24-2-19, relating to the Public Service Commission generally; placing a moratorium on construction and installation of wind power projects until adoption of rules by the Public Service Commission; and directing the Public Service Commission to promulgate rules.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia: That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §24-2-19, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

§24-2-19. Wind power projects.

(a) In order to provide meaningful involvement and participation to all interested parties in determining whether to make a finding of public interest and, if necessary, in developing wind power projects, the commission is directed to: (1) Propose and adopt rules governing the use, construction and installation of wind power projects; (2) Provide notice to all interested parties of each public meeting to be held by the commission in studying whether to make a finding of public interest and, if necessary, in developing wind power projects; (3) Consult with all interested parties attending such public meetings; and (4) Report periodically to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance of the Legislature or any relevant interim study committee appointed by the Joint Committee on Government and Finance on the commission's progress on these issues.

(b) No public utility, person or corporation may construct, install, or otherwise site wind power projects, wind turbines, or any other power project that converts wind into electrical energy, until the commission proposes, adopts, and enacts rules pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Public Service Commission to promulgate rules relating to wind power projects, and to place a moratorium on further wind power projects until the rules are promulgated.