

SESSION OF 2018

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1612**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Commerce

Brief*

SCR 1612 states the public policy of Kansas to have regionally competitive retail electric service rates and urges the State Corporation Commission (KCC) to take any and all lawful action to reduce Kansas electric rates to such levels and maintain the rates and such levels. The concurrent resolution urges the KCC to report to the Kansas Legislature identifying any legislation necessary to assist or accomplish this purpose.

The concurrent resolution states the following findings:

- Retail electric service rates have risen significantly over the last decade;
- Kansas retail electric rates are no longer regionally competitive;
- Regionally uncompetitive electric rates are negatively impacting Kansas' economic competitiveness; and
- Captive Kansas residents and businesses are economically harmed by significant escalation of electric rates of monopolistic electric public utilities, which are increasing rates at levels far outpacing inflation.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

The concurrent resolution directs the Secretary of State to send enrolled copies of the resolution to each of the commissioners of the KCC.

Background

The concurrent resolution was introduced at the request of Senators Lynn, Alley, Baumgardner, Berger, Bowers, Denning, Doll, Estes, Faust-Goudeau, Fitzgerald, Givens, Goddard, Haley, Hardy, Hawk, Hensley, Hilderbrand, Holland, Kelly, Kerschen, Masterson, McGinn, Petersen, Pilcher-Cook, Rogers, Skubal, Suellentrop, Sykes, Taylor, Tyson, and Wagle.

In the Senate Committee on Commerce hearing, representatives of the Kansas Industrial Consumers Group, Americans for Prosperity–Kansas, and the Clean Energy Business Council testified in support of the concurrent resolution. A representative of Kansas City Power and Light (also representing Westar Energy) testified in opposition to the concurrent resolution. A representative of the KCC offered neutral testimony.

Written-only testimony in support of the concurrent resolution was provided by Americans for Electricity Choice. Written-only opponent testimony was provided by the Kansas Electric Cooperatives. Written-only neutral testimony was provided by AARP and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative.