

HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 TO hr1026.

deleting the title and substituting therefor the following:

"REQUESTING THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF COMPETITION IN THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY ON THE CITIZENS OF ARKANSAS, THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY AND THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION."

and

by deleting the subtitle and substituting therefor the following:

"REQUESTING THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON INSURANCE AND COMMERCE TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE IMPACT OF COMPETITION IN THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY."

and

by inserting on line 19 on page 1 the following:

"WHEREAS, many state legislators and regulatory authorities are assessing whether a competitive retail generation market and the choice of generation suppliers to consumers can achieve economic benefits beyond the current regulated structure; and

WHEREAS, certain legislation is pending in the Congress of the United States that would, inter alia, require states to allow retail competition in the electric utility industry at some time in the future; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Arkansas are entitled to continue to enjoy the high level of reliability and universally available service that currently is delivered by the regulated industry; and

WHEREAS, any changes in the electric utility industry structure should provide benefits to all current utility customers and not simply shift costs from one class of customers to another class of customers or to utility stockholders; and

WHEREAS, a transition to a competitive retail generation market must be made in an orderly fashion to ensure that service reliability and economic efficiency for customers is maintained; and

WHEREAS, any new competitive electric market must be fair to all suppliers and not hinder one supplier with obligations not shared by its competitors; and

WHEREAS, the costs to transition to a competitive market must be recoverable in a timely manner from all customers causing those costs to be incurred; and

WHEREAS, Entergy Arkansas, Inc. has filed an application with the Arkansas Public Service Commission requesting approval of certain rate proposals in Docket No. 96-360-U designed to facilitate a transition to competition; and

WHEREAS, other state regulators are considering similar proposals by individual utilities in their states; and

WHEREAS, it is not the intent of the General Assembly in adopting this resolution to cause a delay in the consideration and disposition by the APSC of the proposals contained in APSC Docket No. 96-360-U."

and

by deleting lines 24 through 26 on page 1 and substituting therefor the following:

"THAT the House and Senate Interim Committees on Insurance and Commerce conduct a study, to begin on or after the Arkansas Public Service Commission's final order in Docket No. 96-360-U or December 1, 1997, whichever occurs first, with the cooperation of all agencies in the executive branch, to determine what statutory actions may be necessary and advisable to allow the citizens of Arkansas to have access to a competitive system of electric service and the appropriate time table for a transition to such system."