

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB1549</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>INT</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>5132</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Sears</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2/20/2015</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>Corp Com: \$50-60,000 for FTE and travel</b>

**Research Analysis**

HB 1549, as introduced, changes how the owner of a wind energy facility demonstrates financial security. For facilities constructed before January 1, 2016, evidence would still be filed after the 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation. Facilities constructed after that date must submit their financial security information before construction begins, along with an estimate of the total cost of decommissioning. The financial security must cover 125% of the total cost of decommissioning.

The measure also includes new setback requirements for wind energy facilities. They would have to be no closer than ½ mile from the property line of an adjacent owner, any public road right-of-way, or a producing oil or gas well or existing above-ground oil or gas facility. The facilities could be no closer than 1 mile from a home or other occupied structure, or 3 miles from any city limits, airports or airstrips, schools, or hospitals. Municipalities could require greater distances.

The bill further requires that notice be given to the Corporation Commission and county commissioners when filing with the FAA before construction. The facility owner would also be required to publish notification in local newspapers and notify nearby property owners by mail. Within 60 days of notifying the Corporation Commission, the facility owner would hold a public hearing. No construction could begin until all the notice requirements were met.

Prepared By: Sean Webster

**Fiscal Analysis**

After review and consultation with the Corporation Commission, the Commission believes HB 1549 would require at least ½ FTE and related travel expenses, totaling between \$50,000-\$60,000 in expenditures.

Prepared By: Kristina King

**Other Considerations**

None.