

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 55th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB1968
Version:	INT
Request Number:	5686
Author:	Rep. O'Donnell
Date:	2/17/2015
Impact:	Corp Com: estimated \$350,000/year

Research Analysis

HB 1968, as introduced, amends the Oklahoma Wind Energy Development Act. The measure specifies that the needs of landowners are to be addressed in promotion of wind energy, in addition to those of wind energy developers and mineral estate owners. It also provides that construction, operation and maintenance standards should be established for public health and safety. The definition of “owner” for purposes of this act is modified, from an entity with a majority interest to one with any interest.

A surety bond would be required on deposit with the Secretary of State for each wind turbine in a wind energy facility. The amount of the bond would be enough to cover land remediation, no less than \$25,000. The owner of the facility would be responsible for decommissioning at the termination of the lease, not only upon abandonment or the end of the facility’s useful life. Failure to properly decommission a wind facility would allow the Corporation Commission to recover costs to complete the process from the owner’s bond. The bond required after a wind energy facility’s 15th year, for the purpose of covering decommissioning costs, would now be required to cover the entire cost of decommissioning. This bond would now be required of all wind energy facilities in the state.

The measure includes new setback requirements, including a distance of 3 miles from residential dwellings, city limits, airports, schools and hospitals. Some counties could adopt greater requirements. Wind energy facility owners would be required to obtain permits from the county’s board of commissioners.

Prepared By: Sean Webster

Fiscal Analysis

Upon review of HB 1968 and with consultation with the Corporation Commission, it is determined that it would cost the Corporation Commission an estimated \$350,000/year for the duration of the program. This cost includes the hiring and retention of FTEs as well as other associated costs in order to appropriately enact the provisions of the bill.

Prepared By: Kristina King

Other Considerations

None.

