House File 2336 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY KAUFMANN and REICHERT

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

An Act directing the office of energy independence to conduct a feasibility study regarding the establishment of low=head hydropower energy production facilities, and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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PAG LIN

Section 1. LOW=HEAD HYDROPOWER == FEASIBILITY STUDY.

1. a. The office of energy independence shall conduct a study assessing the feasibility of establishing one or more low=head hydropower energy production facilities at one or more of the following locations:

(1) Sites bordering the Mississippi river, including but not limited to a federal lock and dam.

(2) Sites located on a river, stream, or reservoir within this state, including but not limited to a lock and dam erected in connection with the river, stream, or reservoir.

b. Prior to identifying potential facility locations, the office shall, in coordination with the United States army corps of engineers, the department of natural resources, or any other federal or state agency or entity the office determines appropriate, measure current and flow levels at federal lock and dam locations bordering the Mississippi river, and at rivers, streams, and reservoirs within this state, to assess potential energy generation capacity.

2. For purposes of this study, a "low=head hydropower energy production facility" means a facility designed and constructed for energy extraction from flowing water where the vertical distance through which the water falls is relatively short. The office shall by rule establish distance specifications for characterization of a proposed location as low=head.

3. The office shall submit a report of its assessment, including recommendations regarding potential energy generation capacity derived from low=head hydropower facilities, and a proposed number of such facilities and potential locations, to the governor and the general assembly by January 1, 2009. The report shall also contain recommendations for establishing a pilot project involving construction of a low=head hydropower energy production facility, including a proposed location and timeline for development of the facility.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

EXPLANATION

This bill directs the office of energy independence to conduct a study assessing the feasibility of establishing one or more low=head hydropower energy production facilities at specified locations in this state. The office is also directed to measure current and flow levels at federal lock and dam locations bordering the Mississippi river, and at rivers, streams, and reservoirs within this state, to assess potential energy generation capacity, in coordination with the United States army corps of engineers, the department of natural resources, or other federal or state agencies prior to identifying proposed locations for such facilities. The bill provides that the office shall establish by rule distance specifications for characterization of a proposed location as low=head. The office is directed to submit a report, including recommendations regarding potential energy

generation capacity derived from low=head hydropower facilities, a proposed number of such facilities, potential facility locations, and a pilot project proposal, to the governor and the general assembly by January 1, 2009.

The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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