

## HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

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BILL: CS/CS/CS/SB 888, 2<sup>nd</sup> Eng.  
INTRODUCER: Ways and Means, Environmental Preservation, Communications and Public Utilities and Senators Constantine and Aronberg;  
SUBJECT: Energy  
PREPARED BY: Senate Committee on Communications And Public Utilities  
DATE: May 4, 2006

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### I. Amendments Contained in Message:

**House Amendment 1** – 784891 (body with title)

### II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

**House Amendment 1** decreases the number of members of the Florida Energy Commission from 13 to 9 members, eliminating nonvoting members. It deletes the requirement that the appointments to the commission be made in consultation with the minority leader. It deletes the prohibition against members having specified financial or employment interests in entities that may benefit from the work of the commission, requiring instead that a member disclose such an interest. It revises the commission reporting requirements.

The amendment also contains the renewable energy production credit language, now limited to new or expanded facilities and to \$5 million per state fiscal year. It allows, not requires, the Public Service Commission (PSC) to adopt goals regarding the use of Florida renewable energy resources.

The amendment contains the Senate language requiring the PSC to study underground electric utility facilities and encouraging utilities to work with local governments on these issues. It contains the Senate requirement that Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) report on state government's use of electricity and its efforts at conservation and efficiency. These reports were sought by Senator Atwater and Senator Constantine, respectively.

The amendment uses the House language on solar rebate and energy efficient product sales tax holiday programs, which is more detailed and complete. It deletes the Senate energy efficient appliance rebate program, which was never funded, but requires that DEP report recommendations for such a program.

Finally, the amendment contains provisions on DEP administration of a grant program for water projects, revising grant program eligibility requirements for certain water management and restoration projects. This language was never heard in the Senate. It was part of HB 7133.

NOTE: The bill does not contain an appropriation for the Florida Energy Commission for staff, travel, and other expenses.