

Gongwer News Service

Volume #46, Report #223, Article #07 --Tuesday, November 13, 2007

### 'COMPROMISE' BILL CHANGES UP ELECTRIC MARKET REGULATION

Legislation soon to be introduced in the House and taken up by the Energy and Technology Committee will create a one-time window for electric consumers to stick with a choice system, opening up the chance larger utilities will move forward in building a new power plant in the state.

Committee Chair Rep. Frank Accavitti (D-Eastpointe) told Gongwer News Service his re-regulation legislation will be meshed with a proposal by Rep. Mike Nofs (R-Battle Creek) for a window for choice customers as part of a compromise on the issue regarding PA 141.

Mr. Accavitti said the compromise should bring members from both sides of the aisle together on the issue, but he hasn't gotten a commitment from the Senate on where they are with the proposal.

Mr. Accavitti said the bill will allow electric consumers to select choice systems into the future, but it also provides larger utilities more certainty in knowing the number of customers they will have in order to have them invest in a new power plant.

But Barry Cargill with the Customer Choice Coalition said the proposed legislation essentially undermines consumer choice.

He said his group is strongly opposed to the measure and believes PA 141 has made the market more reliable and competitive.