

ENROLLED HOUSE
JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 1069

BY: NIEMI and MAXEY of the
HOUSE

and

DICKERSON and HANEY of
the SENATE

A JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING THE ECONOMIC AND NATURAL RESOURCES STUDY COMMISSION; DESIGNATING MEMBERS; PROVIDING FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF MEMBERS; PROVIDING FOR STAFFING; PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIRMAN; DEFINING DUTY AND PURPOSE OF COMMISSION; REQUESTING STATE OF ARKANSAS TO CONFER WITH THE COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR TERMINATION OF COMMISSION; DIRECTING DISTRIBUTION OF RESOLUTION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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WHEREAS, the States of Oklahoma and Arkansas have a similar economic base, which includes mining and agricultural based industries that are subject to similar problems relating to growth and regulation. Little is known about the potential problems facing these industries and the impact their activities pose to the resources of these states; therefore cooperative research by the states is needed to ensure their growth and vitality; and

WHEREAS, the States of Oklahoma and Arkansas have similar natural resources which may be impacted by discharges from industries and activities which are common to these states, recognizing that research by these states is necessary to maintain the environmental quality of these states which is vital to the orderly economic development and growth, including the recreational industry, of each state; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to the States of Oklahoma and Arkansas to identify and study the various industries common to these states, the economic impact of these industries and the impact these industries have on the states' natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the existing and potential sources of discharge into the water resources, and associated problems, of the States of Oklahoma and Arkansas have not been comprehensively identified and studied, merit the careful attention and study of these states to assure that the water quality of these states is not undermined or derogated and that public health and welfare, the economy, and the environment are adequately protected.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 43RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. The Economic and Natural Resources Study Commission is hereby created. The Commission shall consist of three members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three members of the Oklahoma State Senate to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Environment, and two members to be appointed by the Governor.

Such members shall be appointed by September 30, 1992. Such members shall serve without additional compensation. Members of the Commission shall be reimbursed for attendance by the appointing agency pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

Staffing for this Commission shall be provided by legislative staff and representatives from the state agencies whose duties are applicable to the purpose of the Commission.

SECTION 2. The Chairmen of the Commission shall be jointly appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives from the above-listed legislative Commission members no later than September 30, 1992.

SECTION 3. It shall be the duty of the Commission to confer and act in conjunction with legislative representatives to be appointed on behalf of the State of Arkansas for the following purposes:

1. To initially make a joint investigation at the joint expense of the two states studying common problems and the potential impact on the natural resources of the state by industries common to the two states, which would include identifying existing or potential sources of discharge into water resources, investigating remedies and recommending possible solutions which would ensure continued economic growth and protection of natural resources;

2. To investigate, negotiate and report as to the necessity and advisability of expanding the scope of the Arkansas River Basin Compact Arkansas-Oklahoma, 1970, or creating a regional compact encompassing surrounding states to encourage development of programs which will ensure continued economic growth of the states and protection of their natural resources;

3. To hold hearings and conferences in either of the states as may be required and to take such action either separately or in cooperation with the State of Arkansas as may be necessary or convenient to accomplish the purposes of this resolution; and

4. To report to the Governor and the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma its findings and recommendations concerning action by the states upon termination of the Commission.

SECTION 4. The Oklahoma State Legislature hereby respectfully requests that the State of Arkansas appoint representatives from the state to confer and act in conjunction with the Commission for the above specified purposes, with the understanding that each state will pay all expenses of its representatives.

SECTION 5. The Economic and Natural Resources Study Commission shall terminate one (1) year after the State of Arkansas has appointed representatives to confer and act in conjunction with the Commission.

SECTION 6. A copy of the resolution shall be dispatched to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Governor of the State of Arkansas.

SECTION 7. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 14th day of May, 1992.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 18th day of May, 1992.

President of the Senate