

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 44th Legislature (1993)

HOUSE JOINT
RESOLUTION NO. 1029

By: Johnson (Rob)

AS INTRODUCED

A Joint Resolution creating the Task Force on Oil and Gas Regulation; mandating its tasks; stating membership; providing for selection of a chairman and vice-chairman; providing for travel reimbursement; requiring a report by a certain date; providing for the calling of the initial meeting; providing for staff assistance; and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, oil and natural gas are a major resource of the State of Oklahoma, and a major industry, the regulation of which impacts the economic condition of the entire state; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of the oil and gas industry is essential to ensure the resources of the state are conserved and effectively produced so that the present and future generations of Oklahoma can benefit from the resources of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation Commission has been charged with the supervision and regulation of the oil and gas industry and the protection of the interests of the state and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation Commission has been charged with the supervision and regulation of public utilities or public service corporations as well as all other transportation and transmission companies doing business within the state; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable for the State of Oklahoma to review the role of the Corporation Commission in regard to the regulation of oil and gas as well as all of its regulatory functions

to ensure that the Commission is fulfilling its mission, that it is functioning efficiently and is meeting all of its obligations; and

WHEREAS, the size and complexity of the Corporation Commission's duties has grown tremendously over the years, it is imperative for the state to investigate its current system of supervision and regulation and consider possible changes or modifications in the system which will better serve the state's oil and gas industry and all of the industries in the state; and

WHEREAS, many of the oil and gas producing states of the United States employ various regulatory systems, and it is desirable for the State of Oklahoma to investigate other regulatory systems and to compare and contrast them with the regulatory system in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, it is the conclusion of this Legislature that a task force be appointed to study the current regulatory system of oil and gas in the state, and to study all of the Corporation Commission's regulatory functions, the current and historical role of the Commission, and the efficiency of and the obligations of the Commission, in order to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature regarding the development of a new regulatory system, including the desirability of reorganizing the current structure and functions of the Corporation Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

SECTION 1. There is hereby created, to continue until January 1, 1995, the Task Force on Oil and Gas Regulation. The Task Force shall study and review the regulatory system of oil and gas in the State of Oklahoma and other oil and gas producing states, and to recommend to the Governor and Legislature such action, if any, that may be taken by the State of Oklahoma to reorganize and restructure its current regulatory system for the purpose of providing the most efficient and effective regulatory system for oil and gas. The Task

Force shall inquire of and consult with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission in order to study and review its regulatory functions, and to consult with other producing states to study the regulatory systems of those states.

SECTION 2. A. The Task Force shall be comprised of fifteen (15) members as follows:

1. The Governor or a designee;

2. The Secretary of Energy;

3. Six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:

a. two members of the House of Representatives, and

b. four members which shall include one representative from each of the following groups:

(1) large oil and gas producers,

(2) small oil and gas producers,

(3) royalty owners, and

(4) transporters;

4. Six members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate as follows:

a. two members of the State Senate, and

b. four members which shall include one representative from each of the following groups:

(1) large oil and gas producers,

(2) small oil and gas producers,

(3) royalty owners, and

(4) transporters; and

5. One member appointed by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

B. Members of the Task Force shall receive no compensation for serving on the Task Force, but shall receive travel reimbursement as follows:

1. Legislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of

their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

2. Nonlegislative members of the Task Force shall be reimbursed by their respective appointing authority for their necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

SECTION 3. The Task Force shall submit a written report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than January 1, 1995, at which time the Task Force shall dissolve.

SECTION 4. The Governor or the Governor's designee shall call the first meeting of the Task Force no later than October 1, 1993, and at that time the members of the Task Force shall elect a chairperson and a vice-chairperson and set an agenda for future meetings. Staffing for the Task Force shall be provided by the staffs of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma State Senate.

SECTION 5. 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 act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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