

SHORT TITLE: Oil and gas; codifying statutes governing the  
Commission on Natural Gas Policy; codification; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

SENATE BILL NO. 1146

By: Easley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Commission on Natural Gas Policy; stating Commission shall operate as a legislative commission; providing termination date; stating purpose; stating membership; stating procedures for filling vacancies; providing for rotating chairmanship of Commission; providing for travel reimbursement; providing staffing; authorizing Chairman to declare positions vacant under certain circumstances; requiring annual report by certain date; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 261 of Title 52, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Commission on Natural Gas Policy, as created by Enrolled Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 39 of the 1st Session of the 43rd Oklahoma Legislature and modified by Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution No. 42 of the 2nd Session of the 43rd Oklahoma Legislature shall operate as a legislative commission until its termination on February 15, 1997. The Commission is appointed to study the policies, laws, agency rules and economics affecting the natural gas industry and make recommendations on any issue which is of great importance to the natural gas industry within the State of Oklahoma. In addition, the Commission shall, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, provide data and assistance to the Governor and the Legislature in the formation of an Oklahoma energy plan and policy statements to present to the Congress and the President of the United States with regard to a national energy strategy which furthers the interests of the United States and the State of Oklahoma.

B. The Commission shall consist of nineteen (19) members. Fifteen of the nineteen members shall, as provided in Enrolled Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 39 of the 1st Session of the 43rd Oklahoma Legislature, be as follows:

1. a. the Governor, or his or her designee,
- b. the Secretary of Energy,
- c. one member appointed by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission,
- d. two members of the Oklahoma State Senate,
- e. two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives,
- f. two representatives of large gas producers,
- g. two representatives of small gas producers,
- h. two representatives of royalty owners, and
- i. two representatives of transporters of natural gas.

Members of the Commission serving in each of the above-mentioned positions on the effective date of this act shall continue to serve in such capacity subject to the provisions of this act.

2. In addition to members listed in paragraph 1 of this subsection, the Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee shall hereby appoint:

- a. one representative of independent gas producers, and
- b. one representative of nonutility purchasers or industrial users of natural gas.

3. In addition to the members listed in paragraph 1 of this subsection, the Chairman of the House of Representatives Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee shall hereby appoint:

- a. one representative of major oil company gas producers, and
- b. one representative of nonutility purchasers or industrial users of natural gas.

C. All members of the Commission, as set out in this section, shall serve until such time as they resign from the Commission or their position is declared vacant by the Chairman of the Commission pursuant to the provisions of this act. If any

position on the Commission should become vacant prior to the termination of the Commission, such position shall be filled by the original appointing authority who shall appoint a representative of the group the original member was appointed to represent. Provided, however, the Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee shall appoint all members previously appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Chairman of the House of Representatives Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee shall appoint all members previously appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

D. The Chairman of the Commission serving on the effective date of this act, shall continue to serve until June 30, 1994. Beginning July 1, 1994, the chairmanship of the Commission on Natural Gas Policy shall rotate annually between the Chairman of the House of Representatives Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

E. Members of the Legislature serving on the Commission and nonlegislative members shall be reimbursed for all necessary and actual travel expenses by their respective appointing bodies in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act, Section 500.1 et seq. of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

F. Staffing for the Commission shall be provided by the Oklahoma State Senate and the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

G. The Chairman shall record the members present at each meeting of the Commission. If any member is absent from two (2) consecutive regular meetings, the position of such member may be declared vacant and filled by appointment of the Chairman of the Commission.

H. The Commission shall report to the Legislature and the Governor its findings and recommendations by January 15 of each year. The Commission shall submit such supplemental or additional reports as it deems appropriate.

SECTION 2. 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  
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effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

44-2-1852

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