

ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 232

By: Easley of the Senate
and
Rice of the House

An Act relating to oil and gas; amending Section 1, Chapter 88, O.S.L. 1994, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 102, O.S.L. 1995 (52 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 261), which relates to the Commission on Natural Gas Policy; extending termination date of Commission; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 88, O.S.L. 1994, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 102, O.S.L. 1995 (52 O.S. Supp. 1995, Section 261), is amended to read as follows:

Section 261. 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~~ May 30, 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. 1. The Commission shall consist of twenty (20) members as specified by this section, provided however, that members of the Commission serving on July 1, 1994, shall continue to serve in such capacity subject to the provisions of this section.

2. The Commission shall be composed of persons qualified as follows:

- a. the Governor, or designee,
- b. the Secretary of Energy, or subsequent Cabinet Secretary responsible for the Corporation Commission,
- c. one member appointed by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission,
- d. the Attorney General, or his or her designee,
- e. (1) pursuant to Enrolled Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 39 of the 1st Session of the 43rd Oklahoma Legislature, the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:
 - (a) two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, one of whom shall be the Chair of the House of Representatives committee with primary responsibility over natural gas issues, and
 - (b) four nonlegislative members as follows:
 - (i) one representative of large gas producers,
 - (ii) one representative of small gas producers,

(iii) one representative of royalty owners,
and

(iv) one representative of transporters of
natural gas.

(2) in addition, upon the effective date of this act,
the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
also appoint:

(a) one representative of major oil company gas
producers, and

(b) one representative of nonutility purchasers
or industrial users of natural gas,

f. (1) pursuant to Enrolled Senate Concurrent Resolution
No. 39 of the 1st Session of the 43rd Oklahoma
Legislature, the President Pro Tempore of the
Senate shall appoint:

(a) two members of the Oklahoma State Senate,
one of whom shall be the Chair of the Senate
committee with primary responsibility over
natural gas issues,

(b) four nonlegislative members as follows:

(i) one representative of large gas
producers,

(ii) one representative of small gas
producers,

(iii) one representative of royalty owners,
and

(iv) one representative of transporters of
natural gas.

(2) in addition, upon the effective date of this act,
the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall
also appoint:

- (a) one representative of independent 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 Chair 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 qualified representative of the group the original member was appointed to represent.

D. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission serving on the effective date of this act, shall continue to serve until June 30, 1994. Beginning July 1, 1994, the chair and vice-chair of the Commission on Natural Gas Policy shall rotate annually on July 1 between the Chair of the House of Representatives committee with primary responsibility for natural gas issues and the Chair of the Senate committee with primary responsibility for natural gas issues.

E. 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. Members of the Legislature serving on the Commission shall be reimbursed pursuant to Section 456 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 or by such other persons designated, authorized or retained by the Chair and Vice Chair.

G. The Chair shall record the members present at each meeting of the Commission. If any member is absent from two (2) consecutive regular meetings, or if the member is no longer qualified pursuant

to this section, the position of such member may be declared vacant and shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

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

Passed the Senate the 12th day of March, 1996.

President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 1996.

Speaker of the House of Representatives