

SHORT TITLE: Oil and gas; repealing Commission on Natural Gas Policy and creating new commission; codification; emergency.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

SENATE BILL NO. 464

By: Easley

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to natural gas; creating the Natural Gas Policy Commission; providing termination date; stating purpose; authorizing Commission to make recommendations; stating membership; stating terms of members; providing for election of chair and vice-chair at certain meetings; providing for travel reimbursement; providing for staffing; requiring chair to record attendance; declaring certain vacancy; authorizing Commission to make certain recommendations or reports to Legislature and Governor; repealing Section 1, Chapter 88, O.S.L. 1994, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 102, O.S.L. 1995 (52 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 261), which relates to the Commission on Natural Gas Policy; 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 261.1 of Title 52, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created the Natural Gas Policy Commission which shall operate as a legislative commission until its termination on December 31, 1999. The Commission is appointed for

the purpose of studying the policies, laws, agency rules and economics affecting the natural gas industry. The Commission may make recommendations on any issue which is of significant importance to the natural gas industry within the State of Oklahoma.

B. 1. The Natural Gas Policy Commission shall consist of twenty (20) members as specified by this section.

2. Members of the Commission shall be as follows:

- a. the Governor, or designee,
- b. the Secretary of Energy, or subsequent Cabinet Secretary responsible for the Corporation Commission,
- c. one member of the Corporation Commission, appointed by the Corporation Commissioners,
- d. the Attorney General, or designee,
- e. the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint:

- (1) two members of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, one of whom shall be the chair of the House committee with primary responsibility over natural gas issues, and

- (2) six nonlegislative members as follows:

- (a) one representative of large gas producers,
- (b) one representative of small gas producers,
- (c) one representative of royalty owners,
- (d) one representative of transporters of natural gas,
- (e) one representative of major oil company gas producers, and
- (f) one representative of nonutility purchasers or industrial users of natural gas,

- f. the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint:

- (1) 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, and

- (2) six nonlegislative members as follows:
  - (a) one representative of large gas producers,
  - (b) one representative of small gas producers,
  - (c) one representative of royalty owners,
  - (e) one representative of transporters of natural gas,
  - (f) one representative of independent gas producers, and
  - (g) one representative of nonutility purchasers or industrial users of natural gas.

C. All members of the Commission 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 shall be legislative members elected by the general membership of the Natural Gas Policy Commission. Such elections shall take place at the first meeting called after the effective date of this act and thereafter at the first Commission meeting of each year.

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 Natural Gas Policy 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 Oklahoma House of Representatives or by such other persons designated, authorized or retained by the chair of the Commission.

G. The chair shall record the members present at each meeting of the Commission. If any member is absent from two consecutive regular meetings, or if the member is no longer qualified to serve pursuant to this section, the position of such member may be declared vacant by the chair and shall be filled by the original appointing authority.

H. Unless otherwise provided by this section, no member of the Commission may vote by proxy or designate any other person to participate in Commission meetings on his or her behalf.

I. The Natural Gas Policy Commission may at any time it deems necessary and appropriate make any report or recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor.

SECTION 2. REPEALER Section 1, Chapter 88, O.S.L. 1994, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 102, O.S.L. 1995 (52 O.S. Supp. 1996, Section 261), is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. 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.

46-1-0972

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