

By: Easley of the Senate
and
Rice of the House

An Act relating to electric restructuring; amending 17 O.S. 2001, Section 190.6, which relates to the Joint Electric Utility Task Force; clarifying certain duties of the task force; extending certain termination date; authorizing appointment of certain advisory council; stating purpose; providing for membership; authorizing necessary expenses and travel; providing for termination of advisory council; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 17 O.S. 2001, Section 190.6, is amended to read as follows:

Section 190.6 A. There is hereby created the Joint Electric Utility Task Force which shall be composed of fourteen (14) members of the Oklahoma Legislature, seven each to be selected by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The chair of the task force shall be the chair of the Senate Energy, Environmental Resources and Regulatory Affairs Committee and the vice-chair of the task force shall be the chair of the House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

B. The chair or vice-chair shall record the members present at each meeting of the task force. If any member is absent from two consecutive meetings, the position of such member may be declared vacant and the position reappointed by the original appointing authority.

C. A majority of the members serving on the task force shall constitute a quorum. The task force shall meet at such times and places as it deems necessary to perform its duties as specified herein. Meetings shall be at the call of the chair.

D. The task force may appoint advisory councils made up of representatives of various utility companies, regulatory agencies, industrial and residential consumers or any other persons as needed to advise the task force in any matter they deem to be appropriate and necessary.

E. Members of the task force shall be reimbursed by their appointing authorities for necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Advisory council members appointed pursuant to this section shall not be authorized to claim travel expenses.

F. The Senate and the House of Representatives shall provide such staff support as is required by the task force and shall be authorized to employ any legal counsel, independent consultants, or other persons as necessary and approved by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

G. The duties of the task force shall be to direct and oversee the studies ~~as provided for in Sections 190.4 and 190.5 of this title and may include, but shall not be limited to, any duties previously authorized by Enrolled Senate Joint Resolution No. 29 of the 1st Session of the 45th Oklahoma Legislature and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 37 of the 2nd Session of the 45th Oklahoma Legislature~~ as directed by the Legislature and any other duties required to carry out the provisions and directives of ~~this act~~ the Electric Restructuring Act of 1997. The task force may make final recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. The Legislature shall review any reports developed by the Joint Electric Utility Task Force. Final authority relating to the implementation of any recommended statutory revisions shall reside with the Legislature.

H. The task force shall remain in effect and operate as herein directed until its termination which shall be no later than January

1, ~~2003~~ 2005. The task force may elect, by majority vote, to terminate its operations at an earlier date if it deems such action appropriate.

I. The chair and vice-chair of the task force may appoint an advisory council, as authorized by subsection D of this section, which may include task force members, staff or other interested parties, for the purpose of studying the state and regional effects of new electric generating facility construction, upgrading, enhancement and new construction of electric transmission facilities, and the environmental, social and economic impacts of Oklahoma and the region's expanding electricity marketplace. The advisory council may initiate meetings with legislators or staff from other states or any other federal, state or local public officials engaged in any activity related to the purpose of this study. Any expenses incurred by the advisory council in performance of their duties shall be approved by the chair and vice-chair of the task force and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Legislative members and staff of the advisory council may be authorized to travel as necessary with approval by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as provided by subsection E of this section. The advisory council appointed pursuant to this subsection shall remain in effect until terminated by the chair and vice-chair of the task force or until the termination of the task force.

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 13th day of March, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2002.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives