STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

2ND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL 720 By: Adelson of the Senate

and

Peters, Kiesel, Lamons and
Sherrer of the House

2ND CONFERENCE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program; creating the Helping Oklahomans Pay for Energy (HOPE)Task Force until certain date; stating membership; requiring appointment by certain date; providing for travel reimbursement; stating purpose; providing for reports; providing for noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

A. There is hereby created, until December 31, 2007, the Helping Oklahomans Pay for Energy (HOPE) Task Force. Such task force shall review the design and administration of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and make recommendations to improve the program's ability to meet its goals in the most efficient and effective way possible.

B. The task force shall be composed of eleven (11) members as follows:

1. Three members representing public utilities located and serving customers in this state, with no more than one person representing any one company, to be appointed by the Governor;

2. One representative of a nonprofit agency which participates in energy assistance programs, to be appointed by the Governor;

3. Two representatives of consumer protection agencies or organizations, to be appointed by the Governor;

4. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or designee;

5. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, or designee;

6. The Chair of the Corporation Commission, or designee;

7. One member at-large, to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate; and

8. One member at-large, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

C. Appointments to the task force may be made on or after the effective date of this act or no later than July 1, 2005. The first meeting of the HOPE Task Force shall be called by the Governor, no later than September 15, 2005.

D. Task force members who are state employees may be eligible to receive necessary and actual travel expenses in accordance with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act subject to the policies of their respective agencies. All other appointees may be eligible to receive necessary and actual travel expenses if authorized by their appointing authority from funds available to such appointing authority. Administrative requirements for the task force shall be provided by the staff of the Senate and the House of Representatives and any state agency as required by the task force.

E. The HOPE Task Force shall study all relevant issues including, but not limited to, a request for the Legislature to direct some percentage of Gross Production Tax revenue currently apportioned to the General Revenue Fund to a fund for the purpose of providing home energy assistance, and any other issues the task force deems necessary. The task force may make any reports it deems necessary and appropriate. Such reports may include an evaluation of low-income energy assistance programs in this state and

recommendations for improvements to said program. Reports shall be distributed to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and be made publicly available.

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.

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