

3 **Senate Bill No. 720**  
4 **As Amended**

5 SENATE BILL NO. 720 - By: ADELSON of the Senate and PETERS of the  
6 House.

7 [ **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) -**  
8 **Helping Oklahomans Pay for Energy Task Force -**  
9 **noncodification -**  
10 **emergency ]**

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

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

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

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

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

- 1           2. One representative of a non-profit agency which participates  
2 in energy assistance programs, to be appointed by the Governor;
- 3           3. Two representatives of consumer protection agencies or  
4 organizations, to be appointed by the Governor;
- 5           4. The Director of the Department of Human Services, or  
6 designee;
- 7           5. The Executive Director of the Oklahoma Department of  
8 Commerce, or designee;
- 9           6. The Chair of the Corporation Commission, or designee;
- 10          7. One member at-large, to be appointed by the President Pro  
11 Tempore of the Senate; and
- 12          8. One member at-large, to be appointed by the Speaker of the  
13 House of Representatives.
- 14          C. Appointments to the task force may be made on or after the  
15 effective date of this act or no later than July 1, 2005. The first  
16 meeting of the HOPE Task Force shall be called by the Governor, no  
17 later than September 15, 2005.
- 18          D. Task force members who are state employees may be eligible  
19 to receive necessary and actual travel expenses in accordance with  
20 the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act subject to the  
21 policies of their respective agencies. All other appointees may be  
22 eligible to receive necessary and actual travel expenses if

1 authorized by their appointing authority from funds available to  
2 such appointing authority.

3 E. The HOPE Task Force shall study all relevant issues  
4 including, but not limited to, those set forth in subsection A of  
5 this section and any other items the task force deems necessary.  
6 The task force shall make any reports it deems necessary and  
7 appropriate. Such reports may include an evaluation of low-income  
8 energy assistance programs in this state and recommendations for  
9 improvements to said program. Reports shall be distributed to the  
10 Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate and  
11 the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

12 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
13 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
14 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
15 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

16 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, dated 2-23-05 - DO  
17 PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.