

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE BILL 649

By: Bass

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to renewable energy; stating legislative intent for continuation of funding for the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative; outlining goals; 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 190.30 of Title 17, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. It is the intent of the Oklahoma Legislature to provide funding for the continuation of the Oklahoma Wind Power Initiative (OWPI) to further the investigation and promotion of wind, wind related, and other renewable energy resources in this state. The OWPI, located in the Environmental Verification and Analysis Center of the University of Oklahoma, and working with other higher education system programs including Oklahoma State University and the Oklahoma Mesonet program, has made great progress in studying the wind energy resources of this state. With such knowledge Oklahoma has a great advantage in attracting wind power investors which may ultimately result in multi-billion dollar industry for our state.

B. With continued funding the OWPI shall:

1. Utilize its resource assessment and information sharing abilities to provide information to Oklahoma companies, in addition to out-of-state wind farm developers, that seek to diversify their energy portfolios;

2. Continue to support and improve software tools that will facilitate studies of specific areas for the potential investors, general public and public officials;

3. Continue economic studies and policy/incentive studies which will further investigate how local, state and national policies may be promoted and utilized to provide the best economic impact for rural landowners and communities;

4. Continue outreach efforts to enhance public and private sector understanding of wind power through more wind power conferences, rural community meetings, K-12 and college education initiatives, Technology Center initiatives, and information for utilities and rural electric cooperatives;

5. Promote research activities at universities to help attract the wind industry to this state;

6. Leverage state funding to seek federal funding for wind power and other renewable energy research and project development; and

7. Offer assistance to Oklahoma economic development groups in attracting new renewable energy related industry to our state.

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.

50-1-1090

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