

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE BILL 720

By: Adelson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); creating the Helping Oklahomans Pay for Energy Task Force; stating termination date; stating duties of task force; stating membership; providing for appointments; requiring meeting by certain date; providing for travel reimbursement; providing for reports; stating distribution; 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 non-profit 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.

E. The HOPE Task Force shall study all relevant issues including, but not limited to, those set forth in subsection A of this section and any other items the task force deems necessary. The task force shall 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.

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.

50-1-534

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