

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 7, 2010

Committee Substitute for
ENGROSSED
Senate Bill No. 1840

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 1840 - By: SYKES, GUMM AND BRANAN of the Senate and JOHNSON AND SHERRER of the House.

An Act relating to retail natural gas service; creating task force to study retail natural gas service; stating duties of the task force; stating membership; stating ex officio members; requiring appointments to be made within certain time period; providing for meeting, quorum and vacancies; providing a termination date; providing for travel reimbursement; providing for staffing; providing for noncodification; and declaring an emergency.

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

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

3 A. There is hereby created until January 31, 2011, a task force for the purpose of
4 studying the availability of retail natural gas service in Oklahoma. The task force shall
5 explore options to overcome obstacles currently impeding the expansion of retail natural
6 gas supply services to new homes and commercial building development areas which are
7 being forced to use less efficient energy sources rather than cleaner, more economical and
8 locally produced natural gas. The task force shall solicit participation from all retail
9 natural gas providers in the area of the state south of Interstate 40 and determine what

1 remedies may be available to provide much-needed natural gas service to the many
2 citizens and business operators in this area of the state.

3 B. The task force shall be composed of twelve (12) members as follows:

4 1. One member of the Senate whose Senate district includes any portion of the
5 state south of Interstate 40 and who also serves on the Senate Energy and Environment
6 Committee appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, who shall serve as
7 cochair of the task force;

8 2. One member of the House of Representatives whose House district includes any
9 portion of the state south of Interstate 40 and who also serves on the House Energy and
10 Utility Regulation Committee appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
11 who shall serve as cochair of the task force;

12 3. Three members of the Senate whose Senate districts include any portion of the
13 state south of Interstate 40 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

14 4. Three members of the House of Representatives whose House districts include
15 any portion of the state south of Interstate 40 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives;

17 5. A member of the Corporation Commission or a designee as selected by the
18 Commission;

19 6. One person who represents a natural gas company that operates in the portion of
20 the state south of Interstate 40 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

1 7. One person who represents a natural gas services company that operates in the
2 portion of the state south of Interstate 40 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
3 Senate; and

4 8. One person who represents a natural gas utility corporation that operates in the
5 portion of the state south of Interstate 40 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
6 Representatives.

7 C. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives shall serve as ex officio members of the task force.

9 D. Appointments to this task force shall be made within thirty (30) days following
10 enactment of this act.

11 E. The task force is authorized to meet at the call of the cochairs, and its activities
12 will terminate no later than January 31, 2011. Members shall serve at the pleasure of
13 the appointing authority. A majority of members of the task force shall constitute a
14 quorum to transact business, but no vacancy shall impair the right of the remaining
15 members to exercise all of the powers of the task force. A vacancy on the task force shall
16 be filled by the original appointing authority.

17 F. 1. Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for their necessary
18 travel expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with Section
19 456 of Title 74 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

20 2. The Corporation Commissioner or designee and all other members of the Task
21 Force may be reimbursed by the Corporation Commission for necessary travel expenses
22 pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

1 G. Staffing for the task force shall be provided by the Senate and House of
2 Representatives staff.

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

7 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND UTILITY
8 REGULATION, dated 04-06-10 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.