

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

3 SENATE BILL 1162

By: Griffin

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to wind energy; amending 17 O.S.
8 2011, Section 160.12, which relates to development of
9 wind energy; modifying certain findings to require
10 protection of public health and safety in location of
11 wind energy facilities; and declaring an emergency.

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

13 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 17 O.S. 2011, Section 160.12, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 Section 160.12. The Legislature finds that:

16 1. Oklahoma's wind energy resources are an important asset for
17 the continued economic growth of the state and for the provision of
18 clean and renewable power to both the people of the state and the
19 nation as a whole;

20 2. Promotion of the development of wind energy resources is
21 important to the economic growth of the state;

22 3. The prudent development of wind energy resources requires
23 addressing the relationship of the needs of wind energy developers
24 with those of the mineral estate owners who have the historical

1 right to make reasonable use of the surface estate, including the
2 right of ingress and egress therefor, for the purpose of exploring,
3 severing, capturing and producing the minerals as reflected in the
4 Exploration Rights Act of 2011, ~~Sections 3 through 7 of this act~~
5 Sections 801 et seq. of Title 52 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and
6 balancing the needs of wind energy developers with those of the
7 landowners who provide access to the wind energy resource, including
8 assurances that wind turbines and wind energy facilities will be
9 properly located and decommissioned to protect public health and
10 safety, that ~~they~~ the affected landowners will have access to
11 adequate information to verify the accuracy of their payments, and
12 that ~~they~~ the citizens will be adequately protected against hazards
13 and accidents that may arise from the wind turbines or wind energy
14 facilities;

15 4. The conversion of wind energy into power for utility-scale
16 systems frequently requires large wind energy systems consisting of
17 wind turbines, electrical substations, electrical lines, and other
18 supporting systems;

19 5. Wind energy facilities, if abandoned or not properly
20 maintained, could pose a hazard to public health, safety, and
21 welfare through mechanical failures, electrical hazards, or the
22 release of hazardous substances; and

23 6. To protect the public against health and safety hazards,
24 standards for the suitable location of and safe decommissioning of

1 wind energy facilities should be established and assurance of
2 adequate financial resources should be given so that the wind energy
3 systems can be properly decommissioned at the end of their useful
4 life.

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

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