
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

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Session of
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INTRODUCED BY LAUGHLIN, BURNS, ITKIN, TRELLO, CHADWICK, COY,
HALUSKA, FOSTER, DOMBROWSKI, FEE, GEORGE AND BORTNER,
NOVEMBER 24, 1987

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, NOVEMBER 24, 1987

AN ACT

1 Creating the Electric Power Transmission Task Force and
2 providing for its powers and duties; and making an
3 appropriation.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Electric
8 Power Transmission Task Force Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Task force." The Electric Power Transmission Task Force,
14 created by this act.

15 Section 3. Electric Power Transmission Task Force.

16 (a) Creation.--There is hereby created the Electric Power
17 Transmission Task Force, which shall have the powers and duties
18 provided for in this act.

(b) Composition.--The task force shall be composed of the following persons:

(1) The Lieutenant Governor and the Chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, who shall be cochairmen of the task force.

(2) The chairman and the minority chairman of the Consumer Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, or their designees.

(3) The chairman and the minority chairman of the Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee of the Senate, or their designees.

(4) The Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Energy Office, or his designee.

(5) The Secretary of Environmental Resources, or his designee.

(6) The Secretary of Transportation, or his designee.

(7) The Consumer Advocate of Pennsylvania, or his designee.

(8) Two persons representing major industrial electricity end users in Pennsylvania, one to be chosen by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives and one to be chosen by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

(9) Two persons representing organized labor, one to be chosen by the Majority Leader of the House of Representatives and one to be chosen by the Majority Leader of the Senate.

(10) One member from each of the seven major investor-owned Pennsylvania electric utilities, to be selected by the chief executive officer of each utility. The electric utilities to be represented include:

(i) Duquesne Light Company.

(ii) Metropolitan Edison Company.

(iii) Pennsylvania Electric Company.

(iv) Pennsylvania Power Company.

(v) Pennsylvania Power & Light Company.

(vi) Philadelphia Electric Company.

(vii) West Penn Power Company.

(11) One member representing the electric cooperatives and the municipal electric companies, to be selected by the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association.

(12) Two at-large designees, to be appointed by the cochairmen, representing nonutility generators.

(13) Four at-large designees who are recognized experts in at least one aspect of electric utility regulation, to be appointed by the cochairmen.

(c) Vacancies.--Any vacancy occurring on the task force shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Members of the task force shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority.

(d) Expenses.--Members of the task force, or their designees, shall not be compensated for serving on the task force, but shall be entitled to receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred while on task force business.

Section 4. Powers and duties.

(a) Authorization.--The task force shall have the power and its duty shall be to assess the electric power transmission network within and outside of Pennsylvania. It shall investigate the net economic benefits of the current system and the potential net economic benefits resulting from changes, including the construction of electric transmission capacity within and outside of Pennsylvania. It shall address the

1 technical, legal, regulatory, financial and environmental issues
2 associated with any proposed changes to the current transmission
3 network. This investigation shall include, but not be limited
4 to, the following:

5 (1) An assessment of the current uses of Pennsylvania's
6 transmission network. This shall include an analysis of
7 issues relating to the current ownership, access, power flows
8 (both intended and unintended), the distribution of current
9 economic benefits, reliability, technical constraints and the
10 aggregate net benefits to Pennsylvania and other states.

11 (2) A review of electric demand forecasts and plans by
12 regional electric reliability council members within and
13 outside of Pennsylvania to either construct new economic
14 generating capacity and/or to enter into agreements for the
15 purchase of energy and/or capacity from nonutility sources or
16 utility sources outside their respective regions.

17 (3) A review of the current transmission access by
18 regulated utilities, electric cooperatives, municipal
19 electric companies, nonutility generators and electricity end
20 users. An identification of economic alternatives to present
21 access arrangements should be undertaken.

22 (4) An assessment of the need for new transmission
23 capacity within or outside of Pennsylvania in order to
24 provide for increased net economic benefits to Pennsylvania.
25 Power import/export opportunities, increased reliability and
26 the potential for economic development should be examined.

27 (5) An identification of the major factors involved in
28 the siting and construction of economic transmission capacity
29 within and outside of Pennsylvania. These factors should
30 include, at a minimum, regulatory, financial, technical,

1 environmental, health, public interest and ownership issues.

2 (6) An assessment of the net economic benefits that
3 might be derived from the creation of an electric power
4 transmission authority that would build, own and operate new
5 electric transmission capacity and/or acquire all or a
6 portion of existing electric transmission capacity.

7 (b) Recommendations.--The task force shall prepare
8 recommendations, related to the electric transmission system,
9 that are designed to capture additional economic benefits for
10 Pennsylvania. A preliminary identification of specific routes
11 and the amount of needed transmission capacity should be
12 included, as well as suggestions for future analysis. The merits
13 of creating a power transmission authority should also be fully
14 addressed.

15 Section 5. Staffing.

16 The staff of the Pennsylvania Energy Office, in cooperation
17 with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, shall head the
18 technical support effort for the task force. The Pennsylvania
19 Energy Office shall direct and coordinate the activities of
20 consultants, utilities and all other staff in carrying out the
21 purposes of the task force. The Pennsylvania Energy Office may,
22 at the direction of the task force, contract with individuals or
23 organizations to provide consulting services to assist in the
24 work of the task force. A reasonable assessment of the issues
25 will be possible only with cooperation from the electric
26 utilities in developing information and performing studies to
27 accomplish the objectives of the task force.

28 Section 6. Meetings and hearings.

29 The task force shall hold an organizational meeting within 60
30 days of the effective date of this act. The task force or

1 designated members may conduct public hearings at locations
2 throughout this Commonwealth. All meetings and public hearings
3 of the task force shall be subject to the provisions of the act
4 of July 3, 1986 (P.L.388, No.84), known as the Sunshine Act.

5 Section 7. Reports.

6 The task force shall make a report of its findings and
7 recommendations to the General Assembly and to the Governor.

8 Section 8. Appropriation.

9 The sum of \$100,000 is hereby appropriated to the
10 Pennsylvania Energy Office for the purposes set forth in this
11 act.

12 Section 9. Expiration.

13 The task force shall expire two years from the effective date
14 of this act.

15 Section 10. Effective date.

16 This act shall take effect immediately.