

Bill No. SB 526

Barcode 553770

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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The Committee on Communications and Public Utilities  
(Constantine) recommended the following amendment:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

On page 1, line 13, Delete everything after the  
enacting clause

and insert:

Section 1. Electric Utility Task Force.--

(1) The Electric Utility Task Force is established for  
the purpose of evaluating the current electric utility  
transmission system and potential improvements to the system  
to decrease damage from storms or improve recovery of the  
system after storm damage, and to develop recommendations for  
improving the emergency response to storm damage.

(2)(a) The task force shall consist of nine members.  
The President of the Senate shall appoint three members, all  
of whom shall be members of the Senate, one of whom shall be a  
member of the minority party. The Speaker of the House of  
Representatives shall appoint three members, all of whom shall  
be members of the House, one of whom shall be a member of the

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1 minority party. The Governor shall appoint three members. The  
2 members of the task force shall appoint a chairperson.

3 (b) Each member appointed to the task force shall  
4 serve at the pleasure of the appointing official. Any vacancy  
5 on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the  
6 original appointment.

7 (c) The task force shall be staffed by the Public  
8 Service Commission, the Department of Community Affairs, the  
9 Department of Management Services, and the Department of  
10 Health. Meetings of the task force are subject to sections  
11 119.07 and 286.011, Florida Statutes. The chairperson may  
12 designate one of the agencies providing staff to perform  
13 administrative responsibilities for the task force. The task  
14 force may invite technical experts to appear at meetings and  
15 provide information.

16 (d) Task force members shall serve without  
17 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses  
18 incurred in carrying out their duties as provided in section  
19 112.061, Florida Statutes. Members who are public officers or  
20 employees shall be reimbursed through the budget entity  
21 through which they are compensated. Persons invited to appear  
22 and speak at task force meetings are also entitled to receive  
23 per diem and travel expenses.

24 (3) The task force shall:

25 (a) Evaluate and analyze the current electric utility  
26 transmission and distribution systems, and the current  
27 telecommunications and cable systems to the extent they use  
28 the same poles or other facilities as the electric systems.

29 (b) Determine available alternatives to these systems,  
30 and the feasibility, costs, and reliability of these  
31 alternatives, including consideration of storm conditions.

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1 (c) Compare the current systems with available,  
 2 feasible alternatives and determine the costs and benefits of  
 3 the current systems and the alternatives, including  
 4 consideration of the costs, both direct and indirect, of  
 5 continuing the maintenance, upgrading, and protection of the  
 6 current systems. Cost comparisons should include the  
 7 possibility of a phase-in of improvements, including  
 8 coordinating improvements with other utility or infrastructure  
 9 maintenance or installation.

10 (d) Evaluate the problems caused by storm damages and  
 11 problems with emergency response and restoration of electric,  
 12 telecommunications, and cable systems.

13 (e) Identify facilities providing critical services,  
 14 such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, water, and  
 15 wastewater facilities, and evaluate the current electrical  
 16 needs of those facilities; determine whether on-site emergency  
 17 systems should be required for these facilities; and recommend  
 18 guidelines that on-site emergency systems should meet and  
 19 sustain during post-hurricane recovery.

20 (f) Evaluate the needs of persons with health-related  
 21 electric needs in their homes and what can be done to provide  
 22 for these needs in a storm situation.

23 (4) The task force shall present a report of its  
 24 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of  
 25 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on  
 26 March 1, 2006. The task force is dissolved on June 1, 2006.

27 Section 2. There is hereby appropriated \$75,000 from  
 28 the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Community  
 29 Affairs for state fiscal year 2005-06 to be used to pay for  
 30 the expenses of the task force.

31 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a

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4 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

5 And the title is amended as follows:

6           On page 1, line 8, after the semicolon

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8 insert:

9           providing an appropriation;

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