

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to electric utility  
3           transmission; creating the Post Hurricane  
4           Utility Task Force; providing duties and  
5           membership of the task force; creating the Post  
6           Hurricane Utility Task Force Advisory Panel to  
7           advise the task force; providing for membership  
8           and duties of the panel; requiring that the  
9           task force submit a report to the Governor and  
10          the Legislature; providing that the task force  
11          be dissolved on a specified date; providing an  
12          appropriation; providing an effective date.

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14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16           Section 1. Post Hurricane Utility Task Force.--

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

23           (2)(a) The task force shall consist of nine members.  
24 The President of the Senate shall appoint three members, all  
25 of whom shall be members of the Senate, one of whom shall be a  
26 member of the minority party. The Speaker of the House of  
27 Representatives shall appoint three members, all of whom shall  
28 be members of the House, one of whom shall be a member of the  
29 minority party. The Governor shall appoint three members. The  
30 members of the task force shall designate one of its members  
31 as chairperson.

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

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

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

22       (3)(a) To aid the task force, there is created the  
23 Post Hurricane Utility Task Force Advisory Panel to provide  
24 analysis, advice, and recommendations to the task force  
25 regarding the existing electric utility transmission systems  
26 and possible changes to the systems and to other affected  
27 systems, such as telecommunications and cable systems.

28       (b) The advisory panel shall consist of six members.  
29 The President of the Senate shall appoint two members, the  
30 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two  
31 members, and the Governor shall appoint two members. One

1 member shall be from an electrical power utility company, one  
2 member shall be from a telecommunications company, and one  
3 member shall be from a cable system company. The remaining  
4 members may include representatives from power utility  
5 companies, electrical contractors, telecommunications  
6 companies, telecommunications systems installers, scientists  
7 who specialize in the transmission of power, engineers, and  
8 others. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing  
9 official, without compensation, and shall be appointed to  
10 terms that do not exceed 4 years. Any vacancy on the advisory  
11 panel shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
12 appointment.

13 (4) The task force shall:

14 (a) Evaluate and analyze the current electric utility  
15 transmission and distribution systems, and the current  
16 telecommunications and cable systems to the extent that they  
17 use the same poles or other facilities as the electric  
18 systems.

19 (b) Determine available alternatives to these systems  
20 and the feasibility, costs, and reliability of these  
21 alternatives, including consideration of storm conditions.

22 (c) Compare the current systems with available,  
23 feasible alternatives and determine the costs and benefits of  
24 the current systems and the alternatives, including  
25 consideration of the costs, both direct and indirect, of  
26 continuing the maintenance, upgrading, and protection of the  
27 current systems. Cost comparisons should include the  
28 possibility of a phase-in of improvements, including  
29 coordinating improvements with other utility or infrastructure  
30 maintenance or installation.

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1           (d) Evaluate the problems caused by storm damages and  
2 problems with emergency response and restoration of electric,  
3 telecommunications, and cable systems.

4           (e) Identify facilities that provide critical services  
5 and that are required by statute or rule to provide for  
6 emergency electric power; evaluate the current electrical  
7 needs of those facilities; and recommend guidelines that  
8 onsite emergency systems should meet and sustain during  
9 post-hurricane recovery.

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

13           (5) The task force shall present a report of its  
14 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of  
15 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on  
16 March 1, 2006. The task force is dissolved on June 1, 2006.

17           Section 2. There is appropriated \$75,000 from the  
18 General Revenue Fund to the Department of Community Affairs  
19 for the 2005-2006 fiscal year to be used to pay for the  
20 expenses of the task force.

21           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
22 law.

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