

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to electric utility transmission; creating  
 3           the Electric Utility Task Force; providing duties and  
 4           membership of the task force; requiring that the task  
 5           force submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature;  
 6           providing that the task force be dissolved on a specified  
 7           date; providing an effective date.

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

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 11           Section 1.   Electric Utility Task Force.--

12           (1) The Electric Utility Task Force is established for the  
 13 purpose of evaluating the current electric utility transmission  
 14 system, determining the feasibility of upgrading and protecting  
 15 the current electric transmission system, evaluating the current  
 16 and future anticipated needs caused by an increased population  
 17 and changing climate conditions, analyzing electrical  
 18 transformers and the best methods by which to protect them,  
 19 determining the cost-effectiveness of requiring underground  
 20 installation of electric utility distribution and transmission  
 21 facilities for all new construction, and determining the cost of  
 22 converting overhead electric distribution and transmission  
 23 facilities to underground distribution and transmission  
 24 facilities when these facilities are replaced or relocated.

25           (2)(a) The task force shall consist of nine members. The  
 26 members may include, but are not limited to, representatives  
 27 from power utility companies, electrical contractors, scientists  
 28 who specialize in the transmission of power, engineers, and

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

29 consumer representatives. Three persons shall be appointed by  
30 the Governor, three persons shall be appointed by the President  
31 of the Senate, and three persons shall be appointed by the  
32 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The members of the task  
33 force shall appoint a chairperson.

34 (b) Each member appointed to the task force shall serve at  
35 the pleasure of the appointing official. Any vacancy on the task  
36 force shall be filled in the same manner as the original  
37 appointment. Any task force member may, upon notification to the  
38 chairperson before the beginning of any scheduled meeting,  
39 appoint an alternate to represent the member on the task force  
40 and vote on task force business in his or her absence.

41 (c) Each member of the task force is entitled to receive  
42 per diem and travel expenses as provided under section 112.061,  
43 Florida Statutes.

44 (d) All meetings and proceedings of the task force shall  
45 be staffed by the Public Service Commission and are subject to  
46 sections 119.07 and 286.011, Florida Statutes.

47 (3) The task force shall:

48 (a) Evaluate and analyze current electric utility  
49 transmission systems and determine whether the utility equipment  
50 being used is appropriate for use in this state.

51 (b) Consider the feasibility and costs of continuing  
52 maintenance, upgrading, and protecting the current electric  
53 utility transmission system.

54 (c) Determine whether the current electric utility  
55 transmission system can be improved to withstand the severe  
56 natural forces that buffet the state.

57 (d) Evaluate the current and future anticipated needs  
 58 caused by an increased population and changing climate  
 59 conditions.

60 (e) Analyze electrical transformers and the best methods  
 61 by which to protect them.

62 (f) Evaluate the current electrical needs of facilities  
 63 providing critical services, such as nursing homes and assisted  
 64 living facilities, and determine whether on-site emergency  
 65 systems should be required for these facilities.

66 (g) Determine the cost-effectiveness of requiring that  
 67 electric utility distribution and transmission facilities be  
 68 installed underground for all new construction and the cost-  
 69 effectiveness of converting overhead distribution and  
 70 transmission facilities to underground distribution and  
 71 transmission facilities when these facilities are replaced or  
 72 relocated. When considering the practical feasibility of  
 73 underground electric utility transmission systems, the task  
 74 force shall:

75 1. Consider the cost of placing some or all electric  
 76 utility transmission systems underground.

77 2. Determine the advantages to the public and to utility  
 78 company employees which are expected, including, but not limited  
 79 to, the expected reduction in accidental electrocutions,  
 80 temporary and permanent disabilities, and vehicular accidents  
 81 involving distribution and transmission facilities, and the  
 82 expected reduction in the ascertainable and measurable costs of  
 83 adverse health effects.

84 3. Determine the cost differential between underground

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85 transmission systems and overhead electric utility systems for  
86 right-of-way acquisition, tree-trimming requirements, and  
87 repairs arising from storm damage.

88 4. Estimate the loss incurred by the private and public  
89 sectors as a result of electric outages due to storm damage.

90 (4) The task force shall present a report of its findings  
91 and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the  
92 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on  
93 September 1, 2005. The task force is dissolved after submitting  
94 its report.

95 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.