

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

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 s. 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 ss. 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

HB 9B

2005

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, 2006. The task force is dissolved after submitting
94 its report.

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