

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to electric utility transmission; creating
 3 the Utility Preparedness 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. Utility Preparedness Task Force.--

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

26 (2) (a) The task force shall consist of nine members. The
 27 members may include, but are not limited to, representatives
 28 from power utility companies, telecommunications companies,

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

29 electrical contractors, scientists who specialize in the
30 transmission of power, engineers, and consumer representatives.
31 Three persons shall be appointed by the Governor, three persons
32 shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, and three
33 persons shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
34 Representatives. The members of the task force shall appoint a
35 chairperson.

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

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

46 (d) All meetings and proceedings of the task force shall
47 be staffed by the Public Service Commission and are subject to
48 ss. 119.07 and 286.011, Florida Statutes. The task force shall
49 conduct its first meeting no later than 60 days after the
50 effective date of the act.

51 (3) The task force shall:

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

55 (b) Consider the feasibility and costs of continuing
56 maintenance, upgrading, and protecting the current electric

57 utility transmission system.

58 (c) Determine whether the current electric utility
59 transmission system can be improved to withstand the severe
60 natural forces that buffet the state.

61 (d) Evaluate the current and future anticipated needs
62 caused by an increased population and changing climate
63 conditions.

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

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

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

79 1. Consider the cost of placing some or all electric
80 utility transmission systems underground.

81 2. Determine the advantages to the public and to utility
82 company employees which are expected, including, but not limited
83 to, the expected reduction in accidental electrocutions,
84 temporary and permanent disabilities, and vehicular accidents

85 involving distribution and transmission facilities, and the
86 expected reduction in the ascertainable and measurable costs of
87 adverse health effects.

88 3. Determine the cost differential between underground
89 transmission systems and overhead electric utility systems for
90 right-of-way acquisition, tree-trimming requirements, and
91 repairs arising from storm damage.

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

94 (h) Evaluate and analyze the feasibility, including the
95 estimated cost, of providing generators to retail outlets
96 selling motor fuel following a natural disaster.

97 (i) Evaluate and analyze the feasibility, including the
98 estimated cost, of providing generators to facilities that
99 provide kidney dialysis to patients following a natural
100 disaster.

101 (j) Consider the feasibility and costs of continuing
102 maintenance, upgrading, and protecting the current
103 telecommunications transmission system.

104 (4) The task force shall present a report of its findings
105 and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the
106 Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later
107 than 120 days after the first meeting of the task force. The
108 task force is dissolved after submitting its report.

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