

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0157

Renewable energy commission.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Warren and Zwonitzer and  
Senator(s) Decaria, Jennings, Massie and  
Ross

## A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to renewable energy development;  
2 establishing a renewable energy commission within the  
3 governor's office; providing definitions; providing for  
4 membership; specifying duties; requiring the commission to  
5 submit its recommendations to the legislature as specified;  
6 providing an appropriation; providing for the termination  
7 of the commission; and providing for an effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 9-2-2901 through 9-2-2904 are created  
12 to read:

13

14

## ARTICLE 29

15

## WYOMING RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

16

1           **9-2-2901. Definitions.**

2

3           (a) As used in this article, unless the context  
4 otherwise requires:

5

6           (i) "Commission" means the Wyoming renewable  
7 energy commission created by this section;

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9           (ii) "Renewable energy" means energy produced  
10 from a renewable resource;

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12           (iii) "Renewable resources" include wind, solar,  
13 biomass, landfill gas, hydro, geothermal and hydrogen if it  
14 is generated from any of the aforementioned sources;

15

16           (iv) "System" means physically connected  
17 generation, transmission and distribution facilities  
18 operating as a single unit.

19

20           **9-2-2902. Renewable energy commission created;**  
21 **membership; salary; meetings.**

22

23           (a) The Wyoming renewable energy commission is  
24 established in the governor's office to develop strategies

1 and legislative recommendations to diversify and expand  
2 energy production and distribution systems in Wyoming with  
3 energy from renewable resources, alone and in conjunction  
4 with new and existing electric and natural gas generation  
5 and transmission facilities.

6  
7 (b) The commission shall consist of thirteen (13)  
8 members including:

9  
10 (i) The chief executive officer of the Wyoming  
11 business council or his designee;

12  
13 (ii) The director of the Wyoming infrastructure  
14 authority or his designee;

15  
16 (iii) One (1) member representing a Wyoming  
17 certified electric utility providing service in Wyoming;

18  
19 (iv) One (1) member representing the Wyoming  
20 agriculture industry;

21  
22 (v) Three (3) members representing the renewable  
23 energy industry;

24

1           (vi) The director of the department of  
2 environmental quality or his designee;

3

4           (vii) The administrator of the public service  
5 commission, office of consumer advocate, or his designee;

6

7           (viii) The director of the University of Wyoming  
8 William D. Ruckelshaus Institute of Environment and Natural  
9 Resources or his designee;

10

11           (ix) The governor's energy and  
12 telecommunications policy advisor; and

13

14           (x) Two (2) residents of the state appointed at  
15 large by the governor.

16

17           (c) Appointed commission members shall serve until  
18 completion of duties delegated to the commission under this  
19 article. If a vacancy occurs on the commission, the  
20 governor shall appoint a new member from the same  
21 membership category to fill the vacancy for the remainder  
22 of the term. The governor may remove members as provided  
23 in W.S. 9-1-202. Commission members who are not state  
24 employees shall receive a salary equal to the per diem paid

1 members of the Wyoming legislature under W.S. 28-5-101 for  
2 each day of actual service and when engaged in necessary  
3 travel plus necessary expenses.

4  
5 (d) The members shall elect from the membership a  
6 chairman, vice-chairman and secretary. The two (2) members  
7 appointed at large shall be qualified voters of the state  
8 of Wyoming with special knowledge, as evidenced by college  
9 degrees or courses or with at least five (5) years  
10 experience in the field of renewable energy generation,  
11 manufacturing, transmission, marketing, industrial  
12 consumption or municipal consumption.

13  
14 (e) The commission shall meet not less than monthly  
15 at the call of the chairman. Seven (7) members shall  
16 constitute a quorum.

17  
18 **9-2-2903. Renewable energy commission duties; report;**  
19 **open meetings; attorney general to represent.**

20  
21 (a) The commission shall develop strategies and  
22 legislative recommendations to diversify and expand energy  
23 production and distribution systems in Wyoming with energy  
24 from renewable resources, alone and in conjunction with new

1 and existing electric and natural gas generation and  
2 transmission facilities by:

3

4 (i) Holding public meetings throughout the  
5 state;

6

7 (ii) Hearing from experts and other interested  
8 parties;

9

10 (iii) Studying and researching other states'  
11 renewable resource policies and programs;

12

13 (iv) Analyzing existing Wyoming data related to  
14 renewable resources and existing electric and natural gas  
15 facilities; and

16

17 (v) Incorporating past efforts related to  
18 renewable energy resources, including, but not limited to,  
19 the report issued by the Wyoming energy commission on  
20 December 14, 2001, and future possibilities that can be  
21 useful in decision making.

22

23 (b) As part of its study the commission shall address  
24 the following:

1

2           (i) The electric and natural gas industry  
3 structure and commercial energy markets;

4

5           (ii) Models for integrating renewable energy  
6 into the existing energy system;

7

8           (iii) Renewable energy resources, technologies  
9 and technical and regulatory issues;

10

11           (iv) Financing strategies, market support  
12 mechanisms, incentives and public policies designed to  
13 encourage and promote renewable energy projects for the  
14 generation of electricity and heat;

15

16           (v) The effects of renewable energy projects on  
17 workforce development and local and rural economies;

18

19           (vi) Energy efficiency and energy conservation  
20 programs and regulations, an energy building code,  
21 renewable energy credits and other measures to encourage  
22 the development and use of renewable energy resources in  
23 Wyoming;

24

1           (vii) Development of a renewable portfolio  
2 standard;

3

4           (viii) The effects of renewable energy projects  
5 on national security, public health, welfare and the  
6 environment;

7

8           (ix) The role of the university of Wyoming,  
9 Wyoming community colleges and the Western Research  
10 Institute in renewable energy research and business  
11 development; and

12

13           (x) Other issues as deemed appropriate by the  
14 commission.

15

16       (c) The commission shall submit to the joint  
17 minerals, business and economic development interim  
18 committee and the governor a preliminary report on its  
19 findings no later than June 30, 2006, and submit a final  
20 report with its recommendations for legislative changes by  
21 December 1, 2006.

22



1 (d) Public hearings of the commission shall be held  
2 in accordance with W.S. 16-4-401 et seq. The attorney  
3 general shall be the legal adviser to the commission.

4  
5 (e) The commission may contract for consultants or  
6 administrative services as necessary to assist in the  
7 functions of the commission and the preparation of the  
8 reports.

9  
10 (f) Staff support for the commission shall be  
11 provided by the Wyoming business council and by any state  
12 agency upon request.

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14 **9-2-2904. Termination of article.**

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16 W.S. 9-2-2901 through 9-2-2904 are repealed effective March  
17 31, 2007.

18  
19 **Section 2.** There is appropriated two hundred fifty  
20 thousand dollars (\$250,000.00) from the general fund to the  
21 governor's office for the period beginning July 1, 2005  
22 through December 30, 2006 to implement the purposes of this  
23 act. Notwithstanding W.S. 9-4-207, the appropriation under

1 this section shall not lapse at the end of the biennium  
2 ending June 30, 2006.

3

4       **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon  
5 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law  
6 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming  
7 Constitution.

8

9

(END)