

SENATE FILE NO. SF0113

Task force on expansion of natural gas service.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hicks and Representative(s)
Paxton

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to natural gas; creating the task force for
2 the expansion of natural gas service to rural and
3 underserved cities and towns; requiring a report; providing
4 an appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

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

7

8 **Section 1.**

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10 (a) There is created a task force for the expansion
11 of natural gas service to rural and underserved cities and
12 towns consisting of the following members:

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14 (i) One (1) member of the Wyoming senate,
15 appointed by the president of the senate who shall be a

1 member of the joint minerals, business and economic
2 development interim committee;

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4 (ii) One (1) member of the Wyoming house of
5 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house, who
6 shall be a member of the joint minerals, business and
7 economic development interim committee;

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9 (iii) Two (2) members appointed by the governor.
10 One (1) of the members shall represent natural gas utility
11 providers and one (1) shall be a member of the governor's
12 office;

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14 (iv) One (1) member designated by the Wyoming
15 association of municipalities;

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17 (v) One (1) member representing the Wyoming
18 county commissioners association;

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20 (vi) One (1) member of the Wyoming public
21 service commission.

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1 (b) The task force shall be staffed by the
2 legislative service office. State agencies shall provide
3 information and assistance to the task force as requested.

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5 (c) The task force shall:

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7 (i) Evaluate the number of cities, towns and
8 rural residential areas which do not have access to natural
9 gas service;

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11 (ii) Review the legal and logistical issues
12 associated with expanding natural gas service to those
13 underserved areas;

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15 (iii) Develop preliminary estimates on the costs
16 and infrastructure necessary to provide natural gas service
17 to those underserved areas;

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19 (iv) Evaluate potential programs that could be
20 implemented through the state or its agencies to expand
21 natural gas service to those areas.

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23 (d) The task force shall submit its recommendations,
24 including any proposed legislation with respect to the

1 issues specified in subsection (c) of this section, to the
2 joint minerals, business and economic development interim
3 committee and the governor no later than November 1, 2014.
4 The joint minerals, business and economic development
5 interim committee shall consider the recommendations and
6 develop legislation it deems appropriate for consideration
7 by the legislature in the 2015 general session.

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9 (e) The task force shall exist until December 31,
10 2014. Members of the task force who are not state
11 employees or legislators shall not receive a salary but
12 shall receive reimbursement for mileage and per diem
13 expenses at the rate provided for legislators under W.S.
14 28-5-101. Members of the task force who are legislators
15 shall be paid salary, per diem and mileage as provided in
16 W.S. 28-5-101 for their official duties as members of the
17 task force.

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19 (f) There is appropriated from the general fund:

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21 (i) Four thousand five hundred dollars
22 (\$4,500.00) to the legislative service office for payment
23 of salary, per diem and mileage for legislative task force
24 members;

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(ii) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to the governor's office for payment of authorized per diem and mileage for nonlegislative task force members.

Section 2. This act is effective immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming Constitution.

(END)