

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.

5

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

7

8 **Section 1.**

9

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:

13

14 (i) Two (2) members of the Wyoming senate,
15 appointed by the president of the senate. One (1) of the
16 members shall be a member of the joint minerals, business

1 and economic development interim committee. One (1) of the
2 members shall be designated as cochairman;

3

4 (ii) Two (2) members of the Wyoming house of
5 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house. One
6 (1) of the members shall be a member of the joint minerals,
7 business and economic development interim committee. One
8 (1) of the members shall be designated as cochairman;

9

10 (iii) Four (4) members appointed by the
11 governor. Two (2) of the members shall represent natural
12 gas utility providers, one (1) shall represent a natural
13 gas producer and one (1) shall be a member of the
14 governor's office;

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16 (iv) Two (2) members designated by the Wyoming
17 association of municipalities;

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19 (v) Two (2) members representing the Wyoming
20 county commissioners association;

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22 (vi) The director of the office of state lands
23 and investments or his designee.

24

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.
22

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.

18

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;

1

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

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

10

11 (END)