

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0067

Geothermal and hydro related energy review.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Harshman, Duncan, Heiner,
Larsen and Sommers and Senator(s) Cooper and
Wasserburger

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the administration of government;
2 creating a task force on geothermal and hydro and hydrogen
3 related energy; providing for membership and duties of the
4 task force; requiring a report; providing for executive
5 department staffing of the task force; providing for
6 legislative liaisons; providing an appropriation; and
7 providing for an effective date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.**

12

13 (a) There is created the task force on geothermal and
14 hydro and hydrogen related energy consisting of the
15 following members:

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2 (i) A member knowledgeable of the oil and gas
3 industry appointed by the oil and gas conservation
4 commission;

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6 (ii) Two (2) members of the public, one (1)
7 appointed by the governor and one (1) appointed jointly by
8 the president of the senate and speaker of the house of
9 representatives;

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11 (iii) A representative of the University of
12 Wyoming's school of energy resources appointed by the
13 University of Wyoming energy resources council;

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15 (iv) A representative of the Wyoming energy
16 authority appointed by the board of the authority;

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18 (v) A representative of the water development
19 office appointed by the director of the office;

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21 (vi) A representative of the geological survey
22 appointed by the state geologist;

23

1 (vii) A representative of a governmental entity
2 or governmentally chartered entity which participates in
3 the sale or delivery of hydropower in the western region of
4 the United States, requested by the governor to serve.

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6 (b) The task force shall select one (1) of its
7 members to serve as chair. All members shall serve without
8 compensation for task force service. Members who are not
9 state employees shall be paid per diem and mileage for
10 attending meetings of the task force in the manner and
11 amounts provided by law for legislators. State employee
12 members of the task force shall be paid per diem and
13 mileage by their agencies for attending meetings of the
14 task force and shall suffer no loss of wages for the time
15 devoted to attending meetings of the task force. The
16 geological survey shall provide administrative and clerical
17 services to the task force. State agencies shall provide
18 information and assistance to the task force as requested
19 by the task force in carrying out its duties. Up to two
20 (2) representatives and one (1) senate member of the joint
21 minerals business and economic development interim
22 committee may be appointed by the chairmen of the committee
23 to act as legislative liaisons to the task force, with

1 authority to attend task force meetings but without
2 authority to vote.

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4 (c) The task force shall review the potential
5 development of geothermal and hydro and hydrogen related
6 energy for residential, commercial and industrial use in
7 Wyoming and other states with identified markets including:

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9 (i) Geothermal and hydro and hydrogen related
10 resources as a means to produce electrical energy;

11

12 (ii) The potential for cooperative ventures
13 between developers of oil and gas resources and producers,
14 generators and transmission owners of geothermal and hydro
15 and hydrogen related energy;

16

17 (iii) Potential impact from the development of
18 geothermal and water reservoirs on existing tourism and
19 other uses of geothermal and water resources;

20

21 (iv) The potential for cooperative
22 public/private ventures to develop geothermal and hydro and
23 hydrogen related resources;

1

2 (v) Possible measures to provide an environment
3 conducive to development of geothermal and hydro and
4 hydrogen related resources.

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6 (d) As used in this act "hydro and hydrogen related"
7 includes hydro-electric energy, hydrogen energy production
8 capacity and water to steam energy production capacity
9 using natural gas.

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11 (e) The task force shall submit its findings and any
12 recommendations for statutory modifications to support
13 geothermal and hydro and hydrogen related energy
14 development to the joint minerals, business and economic
15 development interim committee no later than November 1,
16 2021. The committee shall review the findings and
17 recommendations and may sponsor any legislation it deems
18 appropriate for consideration by the legislature.

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20 (f) Members of the task force shall be appointed
21 within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this act.

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1 (g) The task force shall exist until December 31,
2 2021.

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4 **Section 2.** There is appropriated nine thousand
5 dollars (\$9,000.00) from the general fund to the geological
6 survey for mileage and per diem for members of the task
7 force who are not state employees as authorized in section
8 1 of this act. This appropriation shall be for the period
9 beginning with the effective date of this act and ending
10 December 31, 2021. This appropriation shall not be
11 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
12 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this
13 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
14 2022.

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

20

21 (END)