



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 209

February Session, 2008

House Bill No. 5724

House of Representatives, March 26, 2008

The Committee on Energy and Technology reported through REP. FONTANA, S. of the 87th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY SCARCITY AND SECURITY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study energy scarcity and sustainability. The task force shall
3 conduct scenario planning for long-term petroleum and natural gas
4 scarcity, steep price increases and supply disruptions. Such study shall
5 include, but not be limited to, examining price and scarcity impacts of
6 natural gas and petroleum on the economy, food supply,
7 transportation, education, health and emergency response.
- 8 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:
- 9 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 10 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 11 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
12 Representatives;

- 13 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 14 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
15 Representatives; and
- 16 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.
- 17 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
18 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
19 of the General Assembly.
- 20 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made no later than
21 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be
22 filled by the appointing authority.
- 23 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
24 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task
25 force, from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons
26 shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held no
27 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.
- 28 (f) The administrative staff of the Office of Policy and Management
29 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.
- 30 (g) Not later than January 1, 2009, the task force shall submit a
31 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
32 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
33 relating to energy, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
34 the general statutes. Said report shall include, but not be limited to,
35 short and long-term responses to address potential scarcity,
36 disruptions and cost increases. The task force shall terminate on the
37 date that it submits such report or January 1, 2009, whichever is later.
- 38 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Office of Policy and
39 Management shall conduct a petroleum sensitivity study of state
40 agencies. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, a state-wide
41 assessment and inventory of state departments and agencies and their
42 activities and corollary resource requirements concerning petroleum

43 use. The office shall report the findings of such study to the joint
44 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
45 matters relating to energy on or before November 1, 2008.

46 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The Office of Policy and Management
47 shall establish a pilot program to provide grants to at least five
48 municipalities to develop and plan responses to energy scarcity and
49 cost increases. Said plans may include, but not be limited to, the
50 heating and cooling of public buildings, transportation, vital services
51 and food supplies. No grant awarded pursuant to this section shall
52 exceed fifty thousand dollars.

53 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) The sum of two hundred thousand
54 dollars is appropriated to the Office of Policy and Management, from
55 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, for the
56 purpose of providing grants to municipalities pursuant to section 3 of
57 this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

ET *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 09 \$
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Cost	350,000
Legislative Mgmt.	GF - Cost	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a task force to study energy scarcity and sustainability. The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Energy and Technology Committee by January 1, 2009. The bill permits members of the General Assembly to participate on the task force, and requires the staff of the Office of Policy and Management to provide administrative assistance. The Office of Legislative Management would incur minimal costs associated with mileage reimbursement of 50.5 cents per mile for legislators participating on the task force. The bill requires the staff of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to serve as administrative staff to the task force. The bill requires OPM to conduct a petroleum sensitivity study of state agencies, including a state-wide assessment and inventory of state departments and agencies and their activities and corollary resource requirements concerning petroleum use. This will result in costs of \$150,000 for OPM to staff the task force, and hire consultants to perform the required study.

Additionally, the bill requires OPM to establish a pilot program to provide grants, to at least five municipalities to develop and plan responses to energy scarcity and cost increases. The bill appropriates \$200,000 to OPM for this purpose.

The Out Years

The costs identified above are for FY 09 only, as the task force, study and grants occur in FY 09 only.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5724*****AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY SCARCITY AND SECURITY.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to conduct a petroleum sensitivity study of state agencies. The study must include a statewide assessment and inventory of state departments and agencies and their activities and corollary resource requirements concerning petroleum use. OPM must report the study findings to the Energy and Technology Committee by November 1, 2008.

The bill also requires OPM to establish a pilot program to provide grants to at least five municipalities to develop and plan responses to energy scarcity and cost increases. The plans may include the heating and cooling of public buildings, transportation, vital services, and food supplies. No grant can exceed \$50,000. The act appropriates \$200,000 to OPM in FY 09 for the grant program.

The bill establishes an eight-member task force to study energy scarcity and sustainability. The Senate president pro tempore and the House speaker must each appoint two members to the task force and the majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate must appoint one member each. All of the members can be legislators. All appointments must be made within 30 days of the bill's passage. Any vacancy must be filled by the appointing authority. The House speaker and the Senate president pro tempore must select the chairpersons of the task force from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule the first meeting of the task force within 60 days of the bill's passage. OPM's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

The task force must conduct scenario planning for long-term petroleum and natural gas scarcity, steep price increases, and supply disruptions. The study must examine impacts of natural gas and petroleum price and scarcity on the economy, food supply, transportation, education, health, and emergency response. It can address other issues.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage for the OPM study and task force provisions; July 1, 2008 for the grant program and appropriation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/11/2008)