



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 722**

February Session, 2008

Substitute House Bill No. 5724

*House of Representatives, April 24, 2008*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. MERRILL of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute 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.

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

**APP** Joint Favorable Subst.

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:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 09 \$</b>
Policy & Mgmt., Off.	GF - Implements the Budget	450,000
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, such grants may not exceed \$50,000 each.

The budget bill, sHB 5021, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, contains \$450,000 in the Office of Policy and Management for these purposes, thus it is anticipated \$150,000 of such funds will be used to staff the task force, and the remaining \$300,000 will be available for grants pursuant to Section 3 of the bill.

***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****sHB 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, but not be limited to, the heating and cooling of public buildings, transportation, vital services and food supplies. No grant can exceed \$50,000.

The bill establishes a task force to study energy scarcity and sustainability. 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 price and scarcity impacts of natural gas and petroleum on the economy, food supply, transportation, education, health and emergency response. It can address other issues.

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 within 30 days of the bill's passage. Any vacancy must be filled by the appointing authority. The speaker and the 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.

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

**BACKGROUND**

***Legislative History***

The House referred the bill (File 209) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported a substitute that eliminated a \$200,000 appropriation to OPM in FY 09 for the grant program.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 21    Nay 0    (03/11/2008)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 48    Nay 0    (04/11/2008)