

By: Carona

S.B. No. 781

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the functions and responsibilities of certain legislative oversight committees.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Sections 39.907(e), (g), (i), and (k), Utilities Code, are amended to read as follows:

(e) The committee shall:

(1) at the call of the joint chairs, meet [~~at least annually~~] with the commission;

(2) receive information about rules relating to electric utility restructuring proposed by the commission and may submit comments to the commission on those proposed rules;

(3) review recommendations for legislation proposed by the commission;

(4) monitor the effectiveness of electric utility restructuring, including the fairness of rates, the reliability of service, and the effect of stranded costs, market power, and regulation on the normal forces of competition; and

(5) study and seek policies to ensure that fuel resources available to the state are used in a balanced and efficient manner and consider the reliability, economic viability, and environmental impact of new fuels and generation technologies.

(g) At the times the committee considers appropriate [~~Not later than November 15 of each even-numbered year~~], the committee

1 may [~~shall~~] report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and
2 speaker of the house of representatives on the committee's
3 activities under Subsection (e). If the committee submits a report
4 under this subsection, the [~~The~~] report shall include:

5 (1) an analysis of any problems caused by electric
6 utility restructuring; and

7 (2) recommendations of any legislative action
8 necessary to address those problems and to further retail
9 competition within the electric power industry.

10 (i) In addition to the duties under Subsection (e), the
11 committee may, at the call of the joint chairs, [~~shall~~] meet [~~at~~
12 ~~least twice annually~~] to encourage cooperation and coordination
13 with the following entities:

14 (1) the commission;

15 (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;

16 (3) the Railroad Commission of Texas;

17 (4) the Electric Reliability Council of Texas; and

18 (5) the office of the comptroller of public accounts.

19 (k) At the times the committee considers appropriate [~~Not~~
20 ~~later than November 15 of each even-numbered year~~], the committee
21 may [~~shall~~] report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and
22 the speaker of the house of representatives on the committee's
23 activities under Subsection (j).

24 SECTION 2. Sections 65.252(a) and (g), Utilities Code, are
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (a) The committee may, at the call of the chair, [~~shall~~]
27 conduct joint public hearings with the commission [~~at least~~

1 ~~annually~~] regarding the introduction of full competition to
2 telecommunications services in this state.

3 (g) At the times the committee considers appropriate [~~Not~~
4 ~~later than November 15 of each even-numbered year~~], the committee
5 may [~~shall~~] report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and
6 speaker of the house of representatives on the committee's
7 activities under this subchapter. If the committee submits a
8 report under this subsection, the [~~The~~] report must include:

9 (1) an analysis of any problems caused by
10 telecommunications deregulation; and

11 (2) recommendations for any legislative action
12 necessary to address those problems and to further competition
13 within the telecommunications industry.

14 SECTION 3. Chapter 1801, Insurance Code, is repealed.

15 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.