

By: Parker

H.B. No. 2289

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the security of the electric grid.

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

SECTION 1. (a) The Electric Grid Security Advisory Committee is created. The committee is composed of the following members:

(1) two members appointed by the governor;

(2) two members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

and

(3) two members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(b) The governor shall designate a member of the committee to serve as presiding officer.

(c) The committee shall convene at the call of the presiding officer.

(d) The committee shall study the Texas electric grid and the computer systems and networks related to it. The study must:

(1) evaluate and summarize the current state of the electric grid and associated computer systems and networks;

(2) consider potential security threats to the electric grid and associated computer systems and networks;

(3) assess whether further efforts are needed to secure the electric grid and associated computer systems and networks against damage, including the threat of electromagnetic

1 pulse or other attacks and natural threats, including solar flares;
2 and

3 (4) recommend measures to secure the electric grid and
4 associated computer systems and networks against damage.

5 (e) The committee may share its findings with any state
6 agency it considers important to the security of the electric grid
7 or associated computer systems or networks. To the extent allowed
8 by law, a state agency with which the committee shares information
9 is encouraged to implement any recommendations that the agency
10 determines will improve the security of the state's electric grid
11 or associated computer systems or networks.

12 (f) ERCOT shall cooperate with the committee to provide any
13 information and resources the committee considers important to the
14 study.

15 (g) A member of the committee is not entitled to
16 compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for the member's
17 travel expenses as provided by Chapter 660, Government Code, and
18 the General Appropriations Act.

19 (h) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled for the
20 unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

21 (i) The committee is not subject to Chapter 2110, Government
22 Code.

23 (j) Not later than December 1, 2016, the committee shall
24 prepare a report of its findings, including any recommendations for
25 legislation resulting from the findings, and shall submit the
26 report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of
27 the house of representatives.

1 (k) The committee's work relates to sensitive matters of
2 security. Notwithstanding any other law, the meetings, work, and
3 findings of the committee are not subject to the requirements of
4 Chapter 551 or 552, Government Code.

5 (1) The committee is abolished and this section expires on
6 December 31, 2016.

7 SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 39.917 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 39.917. INFORMATION RELATED TO GRID SECURITY. The
10 independent organization certified under Section 39.151 shall
11 collect and compile information related to the security of the
12 electric grid. The information is confidential and is not subject
13 to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

14 SECTION 3. The governor, the lieutenant governor, and the
15 speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint members to
16 the Electric Grid Security Advisory Committee, as required by this
17 Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act,
18 but not later than the 120th day after the effective date of this
19 Act.

20 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.