

By: Hall

S.C.R. No. 1

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Our food and water supplies, communications,
3 banking, hospitals, law enforcement, and countless critical
4 functions depend on the electric grid, and its protection is vital
5 to homeland security; and

6 WHEREAS, In February 2021, Winter Storm Uri provided a harsh
7 reminder of the importance of the Texas power grid as
8 weather-related failures left many residents and businesses
9 without access to heat; in April and June, the Electric Reliability
10 Council of Texas responded to power generation outages by issuing
11 requests for citizens to temporarily reduce energy use; and

12 WHEREAS, Although more work remains to be done in preventing
13 energy shortages, Texas is fortunate to have its own power grid; the
14 state is thus capable of hardening its own electric system to ensure
15 reliable electricity in any environment for residents, businesses,
16 and state and local government, as well as for U.S. military bases;
17 for example, during the 87th Regular Session, the Texas Legislature
18 passed Senate Bill 3, which requires power generation companies in
19 Texas to prepare their facilities for extreme weather; and

20 WHEREAS, Protecting the grid from all threats would provide
21 substantial economic benefits; as the federal government closes
22 military bases around the country, Texas bases would likely survive
23 closure because of their enhanced energy security; moreover,
24 companies considering relocation or expansion would clearly find

1 the assurance of secure power immensely valuable and look to the
2 Lone Star State; and

3 WHEREAS, The protection of the electric grid is essential to
4 the security and continued prosperity of our state and nation, and
5 Texas is prepared to do its part to ensure that citizens can rely
6 completely on the power system that sustains our society; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas,
9 2nd Called Session, hereby request the lieutenant governor and the
10 speaker of the house of representatives to create a joint interim
11 committee to study the security of the Texas electric grid; and, be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That the committee include members of the Public
14 Utilities Commission, Electric Reliability Council of Texas and
15 other relevant stakeholder groups; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including
17 findings and recommendations, to the 88th Texas Legislature in
18 January 2023; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be
20 governed by such general rules and policies for interim committees
21 as the 87th Texas Legislature may adopt.