



State of Tennessee

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 981

HOUSE BILL NO. 2118

By Representatives Fritts, Alexander, Butler, Capley, Hurt, Hardaway, Richey

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2539

By Senators Niceley, Crowe, Walley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 29; Title 59; Title 60; Title 65 and Title 68, relative to energy policy.

WHEREAS, reliable, affordable, and responsive energy production and infrastructure is essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of this State and to the workings of the State economy; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is leading the nation in economic growth and in the development of the next generation of safe and reliable nuclear energy generation pathways; and

WHEREAS, it is in the State's best interest to showcase continued support for the exploration, development, and production of domestic energy supplies, preferably from the resources within this State or region and most certainly from within the country; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that this State provide for the development of a long-range, unified energy policy to encompass comprehensive energy resource planning and efficient management of existing energy resources and capabilities in relation to economic growth; to effectively meet the increased demand for electricity; to encourage the development of alternative sources of energy, such as next generation nuclear energy; and to ensure the efficient utilization of energy resources and capabilities in a manner consistent with assuring a reliable, affordable, and responsive energy supply and infrastructure for Tennessee, including active support and collaboration with the federal government to ensure access to the nation's energy resources; and

WHEREAS, the advancement of clean, reliable, and safe nuclear energy is a key component of Tennessee's conservation strategy that balances economic growth with responsible stewardship of natural resources and existing energy production capabilities; and

WHEREAS, under executive order 101, the governor convened the Tennessee Nuclear Advisory Council to advise the State on nuclear matters from industry experts; however, the advisory council is set to expire; and

WHEREAS, the development of a unified domestic energy policy for the State of Tennessee as part of a nationwide effort for increased domestic energy production is paramount to our national security and economic growth and stability; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-204-104(a), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting the following:

(a) The council is composed of twenty-two (22) members as follows:

(1) The governor shall appoint:

(A) One (1) representative of energy resource extraction or energy production industries, excluding the Tennessee Valley authority, who may be appointed from lists of qualified persons submitted by interested energy resource extraction or energy production industries, including, but not limited to, the biofuel, oil and gas, wind, coal, solar energy, geothermal energy, hydropower, and nuclear energy industries. The

governor shall consult with the industries listed in this subdivision (a)(1)(A) to determine qualified persons to fill the position on the council;

(B) One (1) representative of the department of environment and conservation;

(C) One (1) representative of the department of economic and community development;

(D) One (1) representative of a public college or university in this state who has academic expertise in energy production or distribution;

(E) One (1) representative of the Tennessee public utilities commission;

(F) One (1) representative of the Tennessee Valley authority;

(G) One (1) representative of the United States department of energy or another partner in the Oak Ridge Reservation, who is a non-voting member; and

(H) One (1) citizen to represent residential energy users;

(2) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint:

(A) One (1) representative of a natural gas distributor or from the natural gas pipeline industry;

(B) One (1) representative with expertise in radiological control or nuclear criticality safety or nuclear wastes;

(C) One (1) representative of the crude oil processing or pipeline industry;

(D) One (1) representative of the nuclear manufacturing industry;

(E) One (1) representative who is involved in innovative energy production;

(F) One (1) member of the house of representatives; and

(G) One (1) citizen to represent farmers or other agricultural enterprises;

(3) The speaker of the senate shall appoint:

(A) One (1) representative of an electric cooperative;

(B) One (1) representative of Oak Ridge National Laboratory;

(C) One (1) representative of a municipal electric provider;

(D) One (1) representative of the local government of the city of Oak Ridge;

(E) One (1) representative of the local government of either Hamilton County, Rhea County, Unicoi County, Anderson County, or Roane County;

(F) One (1) member of the senate; and

(G) One (1) citizen to represent small business owners.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-204-104, is amended by deleting subsection (c) and substituting:

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(c)

(1) The entire membership of the council as comprised on June 30, 2024, shall be vacated on July 1, 2024, and new members shall be appointed in accordance with subsection (a). All appointments to the council must be made by July 1, 2024.

(2) In order to stagger the terms of the newly appointed council members, initial appointments must be made as follows:

(A) The members described in subdivision (a)(1) shall serve an initial term of one (1) year, which expires on June 30, 2025;

(B) The members described in subdivision (a)(2) shall serve an initial term of two (2) years, which expires on June 30, 2026; and

(C) The members described in subdivision (a)(3) shall serve an initial term of three (3) years, which expires on June 30, 2027.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-245(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (34).

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-29-247(a), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

() State energy policy council, created by § 68-204-101;

SECTION 5. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2118

PASSED: April 25, 2024


CAMERON SEXTON, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


RANDY MCNALLY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 21st day of May 2024


BILL LEE, GOVERNOR