

SENATE BILL 2473

By Norris

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 11; Title 49; Title 60; Title 64; Title 65 and Title 68, relative to a statewide comprehensive energy plan.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 9, Part 14, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee is directed to perform a study on the economic feasibility of creating and utilizing a statewide comprehensive energy policy. The study shall examine the state's current and future energy supply and demand needs, existing energy policies, and emerging energy challenges and opportunities. The objectives of the study shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- (1) Increasing the exploration and use of in-state or domestic energy resources;
- (2) Promoting job growth, energy production, energy use, and energy conservation in the state;
- (3) Ensuring reliable, low-cost environmentally responsible energy supply;
- (4) Gaining competitive advantages for Tennessee businesses and consumers in light of rising energy costs; and
- (5) Positioning the state as a leader in the United States and world energy markets.

(b) The study shall focus on incentives and policies that the state may utilize to promote and enhance the most cost efficient and effective statewide comprehensive energy policy. The study shall include legislative and executive policy recommendations.

(c) All appropriate state departments and agencies are encouraged to provide assistance for the study.

(d) The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy is authorized to establish public and private partnerships for the study. State funds shall be made available up to the cost of any matching private or public contributions except for federal funding. Additional funds may be made available from county or municipal appropriations or federal funds available for such a purpose.

(e) The Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy shall report its findings to the energy task force of the house of representatives no later than October 1, 2014.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring

it.