

SENATE BILL 2539

By Niceley

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, energy 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 in relation to economic growth; to effectively meet an energy crisis; to encourage the development of alternative sources of energy, such as next generation nuclear energy, capable of achieving a positive benefit-to-cost ratio; and to ensure the efficient utilization of energy resources in a manner consistent with assuring a reliable and adequate supply of energy 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

WHEREAS, 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 seventeen (17) members as follows:

(1) The governor or the governor's designee shall serve as an ex officio, voting member of the council;

(2) 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)(2)(A) to determine qualified persons to fill the position on the council;

(B) One (1) representative of a commercial, industrial, or agricultural energy consumer;

(C) One (1) representative of an institution of higher education in this state;

(D) One (1) representative of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory;

and

(E) One (1) representative of the nuclear energy industry specifically, including, but not limited to, research, equipment procurement and training, and economic development;

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

(A) One (1) representative of the energy research and development industry, who may be selected from lists of qualified persons submitted by interested research and development industries, including, but not limited to, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The speaker shall consult with the industries described in this subdivision (a)(3)(A) to determine qualified persons to fill the position on the council;

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

(C) One (1) representative of a local distribution utility; and

(D) One (1) representative of a transportation-related industry, including, but not limited to, wholesalers, transportation equipment manufacturers, shipping companies, and local transit authorities;

(4) The speaker of the senate shall appoint:

(A) One (1) residential energy user;

(B) One (1) representative of environmental groups;

(C) One (1) representative of the industries that provide natural gas to consumers in this state; and

(D) One (1) representative who is knowledgeable of and has expertise in energy efficiency and energy conservation as it relates to the built environment, who may be selected from lists of qualified persons

submitted by interested parties from the engineering and architectural professions in this state. The speaker shall consult with the professions described in this subdivision (a)(4)(D) to determine qualified persons to fill the position on the council;

(5) The state treasurer or the treasurer's designee shall serve as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the council;

(6) One (1) nonvoting student member with expertise in energy issues and energy policy, who, during the person's tenure as a member of the council, is enrolled as a graduate student in an institution of higher education in this state. The student member shall be appointed by the council from nominations submitted by university faculty members at such institutions; and

(7) The chair of the Tennessee public utility commission or the chair's designee serves as an ex officio, voting member of the council.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.