

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 195

BY SENATOR HENRY

A RESOLUTION

To create and provide for the Task Force on Energy Infrastructure and Modernization.

WHEREAS, Louisiana is experiencing an increased demand for electricity that is driven by industrial expansion and power for data centers; and

WHEREAS, the long-term reliability and affordability of the state's electric grid are critical to sustain economic growth and energy security; and

WHEREAS, delays in permitting, limited self-generation opportunities, and outdated infrastructure financing models may pose risks to grid stability and investment in key industries; and

WHEREAS, some states have enacted legislation to modernize their energy policies by allowing large customer microgrids and streamlining state permitting processes; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's industrial sector, which consumes over 40% of the state's electricity, is asking for the ability to self-generate power, including renewable energy, to meet corporate sustainability goals and mitigate escalating utility costs; and

WHEREAS, a study conducted for large industrial customers of Entergy Louisiana found that base rates for all customers are projected to rise ninety percent from 2018 to 2030, prompting industries to seek alternatives to traditional utility services; and

WHEREAS, allowing generators to serve large industrial loads directly, including multiple customers, could provide these industries with more control over energy sources and costs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby establish and provide for the Task Force on Energy Infrastructure and Modernization to study and make recommendations, including proposals for legislation, to the Senate that promote energy self-generation, industrial microgrids, and expedited permitting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force should include consideration and evaluation of all of the following:

- (1) Alternatives to traditional utility regulations for new utility-scale merchant

generators built primarily to serve co-located large industrial loads, with consideration given to regulatory flexibility, market impacts, and system reliability.

(2) The potential for generators and industrial loads to interconnect with the grid, provided the interconnection would not reasonably be expected to reduce the reliability of the grid or result in increased costs to residential ratepayers.

(3) A legal framework that would allow generators to serve large industrial loads directly, including multiple customers.

(4) Statutory reforms to expedite permitting for energy infrastructure projects, including firm timelines for approval by permitting agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following members:

(1) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, or his designee.

(2) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs, or his designee.

(3) The chairman of the Public Service Commission, or his designee.

(4) The secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, or his designee.

(5) The secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, or his designee.

(6) The secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, or his designee.

(7) One representative from an electric utility operating in Louisiana.

(8) One representative from an electric cooperative operating in Louisiana.

(9) One representative from an industrial energy consumer group.

(10) A generation developer seeking to serve large industrial or data center loads operating in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to carry out its duties, the task force is authorized to receive input, assistance, and expert opinions from individuals and organizations in the energy industry, including but not limited to stakeholders with specialized knowledge relevant to energy generation and grid modernization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the names of designees shall be submitted to the secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources no later than August 15, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no later than September 15, 2025, at the call of the secretary for the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, and at the first meeting, the members shall elect a chairman and other officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall develop a written plan, including recommendations and proposals for legislation, and submit the plan to the Senate and the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than March 1, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the submission of its report or March 1, 2026, whichever occurs first.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Senate, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and International Affairs, the secretary of the Department of Energy and Natural Resources, the secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, the secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, and the executive secretary of the Public Service Commission.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE