

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0067

Geothermal energy review.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Harshman, Duncan, Heiner,
Larsen and Sommers and Senator(s) Cooper and
Wasserburger

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to the administration of government;
2 creating a task force on geothermal energy; providing for
3 membership and duties of the task force; requiring a
4 report; providing for executive department staffing of the
5 task force; providing for legislative liaisons; providing
6 an appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

9

10 **Section 1.**

11

12 (a) There is created the task force on geothermal
13 energy consisting of the following members:

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1 (i) A member knowledgeable of the oil and gas
2 industry appointed by the oil and gas conservation
3 commission;

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5 (ii) Two (2) members of the public, one (1)
6 appointed by the governor and one (1) appointed jointly by
7 the president of the senate and speaker of the house of
8 representatives;

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10 (iii) A representative of the University of
11 Wyoming's school of energy resources appointed by the
12 president of the University;

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14 (iv) A representative of the Wyoming energy
15 authority appointed by the board of the authority;

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17 (v) A representative of the water development
18 commission appointed by the commission;

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20 (vi) A representative of the geological survey
21 appointed by the state geologist.

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1 (b) The task force shall select one (1) of its
2 members to serve as chair. All members shall serve without
3 compensation for task force service. Members who are not
4 state employees shall be paid per diem and mileage for
5 attending meetings of the task force in the manner and
6 amounts provided by law for legislators. State employee
7 members of the task force shall be paid per diem and
8 mileage by their agencies for attending meetings of the
9 task force and shall suffer no loss of wages for the time
10 devoted to attending meetings of the task force. The
11 geological survey shall provide administrative and clerical
12 services to the task force. State agencies shall provide
13 information and assistance to the task force as requested
14 by the task force in carrying out its duties. Up to two
15 (2) representatives and one (1) senate member of the joint
16 minerals business and economic development interim
17 committee may be appointed by the chairmen of the committee
18 to act as legislative liaisons to the task force, with
19 authority to attend task force meetings but without
20 authority to vote.

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1 (c) The task force shall review the potential
2 development of geothermal energy for residential,
3 commercial and industrial use in Wyoming including:

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5 (i) Geothermal resources as a means to produce
6 electrical energy;

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8 (ii) The potential for cooperative ventures
9 between developers of oil and gas resources and producers
10 of geothermal energy;

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12 (iii) Potential impact from the development of
13 geothermal reservoirs on existing tourism and other uses of
14 geothermal resources;

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16 (iv) The potential for cooperative
17 public/private ventures to develop geothermal resources;

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19 (v) Possible measures to provide an environment
20 conducive to development of geothermal resources.

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22 (d) The task force shall submit its findings and any
23 recommendations for statutory modifications to support

1 geothermal energy development to the joint minerals,
2 business and economic development interim committee no
3 later than November 1, 2021. The committee shall review
4 the findings and recommendations and may sponsor any
5 legislation it deems appropriate for consideration by the
6 legislature.

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8 (e) Members of the task force shall be appointed
9 within fifteen (15) days of the effective date of this act.

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11 (f) The task force shall exist until December 31,
12 2021.

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14 **Section 2.** There is appropriated seven thousand
15 dollars (\$7,000.00) from the general fund to the geological
16 survey for mileage and per diem for members of the task
17 force who are not state employees as authorized in section
18 1 of this act. This appropriation shall be for the period
19 beginning with the effective date of this act and ending
20 December 31, 2021. This appropriation shall not be
21 transferred or expended for any other purpose and any
22 unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this

1 appropriation shall revert as provided by law on June 30,
2 2022.

3

4 **Section 3.** This act is effective immediately upon
5 completion of all acts necessary for a bill to become law
6 as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of the Wyoming
7 Constitution.

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9

(END)