

# Hall of the House of Representatives

87th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2009

## Amendment Form

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### Subtitle of House Bill No. 1926

"TO PROMOTE THE PRODUCTION, THE DEVELOPMENT, AND THE USE OF LIGNITE  
IN THIS STATE."

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### Amendment No. 1 to House Bill No. 1926.

Amend House Bill No. 1926 as originally introduced:

Delete everything after the enacting clause, and substitute the following:

SECTION 1. [DO NOT CODIFY]. The General Assembly finds that:

(1) Lignite is a vast energy resource with nine billion (9,000,000,000) tons in southern Arkansas that is virtually untapped and is easily extracted;

(2) Lignite is an important form of energy for generating electricity that produces an average of fourteen million British Thermal Units (14,000,000 BTU) per ton or eight thousand three hundred British Thermal Units (8,300 BTU) per pound;

(3) Lignite is a natural Arkansas resource that can create an industry and ancillary industries critical to the economic well-being of this state;

(4) Lignite production in Arkansas can lead to the discovery and development of new products and to viable alternative uses of lignite to the benefit the citizens of this state as well as persons in the lignite industry;

(5) Lignite development in Arkansas should proceed in an orderly manner that is mutually beneficial to landowners, miners, and processors of lignite in a manner that is environmentally responsible to future generations of Arkansans;

(6) Lignite has the potential to be used with fuel products in a variety of ways to augment the imported coal that is currently used to generate electricity in Arkansas's power plants;

(7) In the United States, approximately seventy-nine percent (79%) of lignite is used to generate electricity, thirteen and five-tenths percent (13.5%) of lignite is used to generate synthetic natural gas, and seven and five-tenths percent (7.5%) of lignite is used to produce fertilizer products; and

(8) Currently, Arkansas is not utilizing its lignite resources while other states, such as Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and North Dakota, regard lignite as an important source for electrical power generation,



synfuels production, and other value-added products.”

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 65, Subchapter 4 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

“6-65-411. The Arkansas Lignite Resource Program.

(a) The Arkansas Lignite Resource Program is established to promote the production, development, and use of lignite in this state.

(b) The program shall be administered by the Southern Arkansas University Lignite Resource Center which shall:

(1) Prepare a comprehensive business plan for the production, development, and use of lignite in an environmentally responsible manner as:

(A) An alternative energy source, including without limitation as a synfuel; and

(B) A value-added product;

(2) Conduct a feasibility study along with a detailed commercial market analysis for the promotion of the production, development, and use of lignite;

(3) Provide a local match for the Southern Arkansas University’s Economic Development Administration grant to construct the Southern Arkansas University Lignite Resource Center adjacent to the Science Center on the Southern Arkansas University campus at Magnolia; and

(4) Secure a business partnership to demonstrate a pilot gasification model at an existing south Arkansas industry that will stimulate the local economy.”

The Amendment was read \_\_\_\_\_

By: Representative Maxwell  
GLG/RCK - 03-30-2009 10:31  
GLG181

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Chief Clerk