

15-10-201. Title.

This subchapter may be cited as the "Arkansas Energy Reorganization and Policy Act of 1981".

History. Acts 1981, No. 7, § 1; A.S.A. 1947, § 5-936.

15-10-202. Declaration of policy.

The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(1) The adequacy of future energy supplies will be crucial to the state's economic development;

(2) In order to create a favorable environment for economic development and in order to preserve and enhance our present quality of life, Arkansas must promote the efficient use of energy and the development of a reliable and economic energy delivery system which includes the use of renewable energy resources as well as conventional sources of energy such as coal, lignite, uranium, oil, and natural gas;

(3) The need exists for comprehensive state leadership to ensure the wise and efficient production, distribution, use, and conservation of energy;

(4) Only an agency with comprehensive duties and powers can collect, analyze, and disseminate information necessary to promote a reliable and efficient energy delivery system for the state;

(5) It is in the best interest of the citizens of this state to establish a division within the Arkansas Economic Development Commission to coordinate the planning and execution of comprehensive energy conservation programs; and

(6) The development and use of a diverse array of energy resources must be encouraged.

History. Acts 1981, No. 7, § 2; A.S.A. 1947, § 5-937; Acts 1997, No. 540, § 34.

15-10-203. Arkansas Energy Office - Creation.

(a)(1) There is created an Arkansas Energy Office, also referred to in this subchapter as the "office", as a division within the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

(2)(A) The executive head of this division shall be the Director of the Arkansas Energy Office.

(B) The Director of the Arkansas Energy Office shall be appointed by the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission with the advice and consent of the Governor.

(b) The Arkansas Energy Office shall consist of such divisions as may be established by the Director of the Arkansas Energy Office, with the approval of the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission.

History. Acts 1981, No. 7, § 3; A.S.A. 1947, § 5-938; Acts 1997, No. 540, § 35.

15-10-204. Arkansas Energy Office - Director.

(a) Each division of the Arkansas Energy Office shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Director of the Arkansas Energy Office.

(b) The Director of the Arkansas Energy Office may delegate his or her functions, powers, and duties to various divisions of the office as he or she may deem desirable and necessary for the effective and efficient operation of the agency.

(c) In addition to other duties and functions prescribed for the Director of the Arkansas Energy Office elsewhere in this subchapter, the Director of the Arkansas Energy Office shall supervise the daily operation of the agency and advise the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Governor, and the General Assembly on energy matters.

History. Acts 1981, No. 7, § 3; A.S.A. 1947, § 5-938; Acts 1997, No. 540, § 36.

15-10-205. Arkansas Energy Office - Powers and duties.

(a) The Arkansas Energy Office shall coordinate authority and planning by the state in energy-related matters and shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

(1) Coordinating energy matters between and among all state agencies;

(2) Compiling an energy profile for the state which includes, but is not limited to, data on the demand for and supply of renewable and nonrenewable energy resources;

(3) Collecting data on, planning, and administering emergency plans, when needed, to allocate the distribution of motor fuels, heating oil, and propane by wholesale jobbers and dealers within the state;

(4) Collecting data on, planning, and administering emergency plans, when needed, for the conservation or rationing of motor fuels;

(5) Proposing executive and legislative measures on energy-related matters;

(6) Providing comments before state and federal regulatory bodies on energy matters mandated by federal and state agencies;

(7) Monitoring and evaluating existing and proposed actions, laws, policies, regulations, and orders of the state and federal governments in energy matters relevant to Arkansas;

(8) Securing and administering federal energy grants for agencies of state government and monitoring and publicizing federal energy grants available to the private sector;

(9) Carrying out energy-related administrative and program functions established and required by federal law, regulations, or guidelines when applicable in Arkansas;

(10) Developing and administering conservation programs directed toward reducing wasteful, inefficient uses of energy;

(11) Promulgating reasonable rules and regulations for the purpose of implementing and prescribing enforcement for thermal and lighting efficiency standards for new building construction in the state;

(12) Developing and proposing thermal and lighting efficiency improvement programs for all buildings owned by the state and prescribing reasonable thermal and lighting efficiency criteria applicable to the leasing of buildings by all state agencies; and

(13) Administering a public energy awareness program to inform and demonstrate to the public the importance and methods of utilizing energy conservation and renewable energy resources.

(b) The office shall have the authority to:

(1) Provide comments before state and federal bodies in energy matters relevant to Arkansas;

(2) Receive and expend funds obtained from the federal government or other sources by means of contracts, grants, awards, payment for services, and other devices in support of

energy-related programs, studies, or other operations beneficial to the State of Arkansas;

(3) Promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the purpose of implementing and prescribing enforcement for thermal and lighting efficiency standards for new building construction;

(4) Propose programs for the implementation of thermal and lighting efficiency improvements for all buildings owned by the state and prescribe reasonable thermal and lighting efficiency criteria applicable to the leasing of buildings by all state agencies; and

(5) Promulgate rules and regulations for the purpose of administering emergency plans as referred to in subdivision (a)(4) of this section.

(c) Prior to the final adoption of the rules and regulations prescribing thermal and lighting efficiency standards for new building construction referred to in subdivision (b)(3) of this section, the Joint Committee on Energy of the General Assembly shall review and comment on the rules and regulations of the office.

History. Acts 1981, No. 7, § 3; A.S.A. 1947, § 5-938; Acts 1993, No. 234, § 1; 1993, No. 248, § 1.

15-10-206. Agency cooperation and coordination with Arkansas Energy Office.

All other state agencies shall cooperate and coordinate with the Arkansas Energy Office to the utmost degree within the range of action permissible within statutory authority.

History. Acts 1981, No. 7, § 3; A.S.A. 1947, § 5-938.