

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2460

4  
5 By: Representatives Webb, Adcock, T. Baker, Blount, Bond, T. Bradford, Breedlove, E. Brown, J.  
6 Brown, Burris, Cash, Cheatham, Chesterfield, Cook, D. Creekmore, Dickinson, S. Dobbins, Dunn,  
7 Edwards, Garner, Hall, Harrelson, House, Hoyt, D. Hutchinson, Hyde, D. Johnson, J. Johnson, W.  
8 Lewellen, Lovell, Maloch, Moore, Pate, Pennartz, Petrus, Pickett, Pierce, Powers, S. Prater, Rainey,  
9 Reep, Reynolds, J. Roebuck, Saunders, Schulte, Shelby, L. Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Sumpter, Wagner,  
10 Walters, Wills, Woods  
11 By: Senators Argue, Broadway, Brown, Bryles, Faris, J. Jeffress, Madison, Malone, Salmon, R.  
12 Thompson

## For An Act To Be Entitled

13  
14  
15 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON  
16 GLOBAL WARMING; TO DIRECT THE COMMISSION TO STUDY  
17 ISSUES RELATED TO GLOBAL WARMING AND THE EMERGING  
18 CARBON MARKET; TO ESTABLISH A GLOBAL WARMING  
19 POLLUTANT REDUCTION GOAL AND COMPREHENSIVE  
20 STRATEGIC PLAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
21

## Subtitle

22  
23 TO ESTABLISH THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION  
24 ON GLOBAL WARMING; TO DIRECT THE  
25 COMMISSION TO STUDY ISSUES RELATED TO  
26 GLOBAL WARMING; AND TO ESTABLISH A  
27 GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTANT REDUCTION GOAL  
28 AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN.  
29

30  
31  
32 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

33  
34 SECTION 1. Commission established – Membership.

35 (a) The Governor's Commission on Global Warming is hereby created and  
36 established, referred to hereafter as the "commission".



1       (b) The commission shall be composed of twenty (20) members appointed  
 2 as follows:

3               (1) Two (2) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of  
 4 the Senate;

5               (2) Two (2) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
 6 Representatives; and

7               (3) Sixteen (16) members appointed by the Governor as follows:

8                       (A) One (1) member from the public energy sector;

9                       (B) One (1) member from a rural electric cooperative;

10                      (C) One (1) member from the municipal energy sector;

11                      (D) Two (2) members from the agriculture sector;

12                      (E) One (1) member from the forestry sector;

13                      (F) Two (2) members from separate nonprofit environmental  
 14 organizations;

15                      (G)(i) Three (3) members who are scientists from an  
 16 accredited state institution of higher education;

17                               (ii) One (1) of the three (3) scientists shall be a  
 18 climatologist;

19                      (H) One (1) member from the state Chamber of  
 20 Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas;

21                      (I) One (1) member of the AFL-CIO;

22                      (J) One (1) member who is an economist from an accredited  
 23 state institution of higher education; and

24                      (K) Two (2) members who are citizens at large.

25       (c) The commission shall establish and appoint an advisory body  
 26 composed of the directors of the following state agencies or his or her  
 27 designee:

28                      (1) Arkansas Agriculture Department;

29                      (2) Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality;

30                      (3) Arkansas Forestry Commission;

31                      (4) Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department;

32                      (5) Arkansas Natural Resources Commission;

33                      (6) Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission;

34                      (7) Department of Economic Development;

35                      (8) Department of Parks and Tourism; and

36                      (9) Oil and Gas Commission.

1  
2 SECTION 2. Co-chairs.

3 The commission shall have two (2) co-chairs to be elected from among  
4 the members of the commission.

5  
6 SECTION 3. Quorum.

7 A quorum of the commission shall consist of a majority of the members.  
8

9 SECTION 4. Vacancies.

10 A vacancy on the commission shall be filled as soon as possible by the  
11 appointing authority.

12  
13 SECTION 5. Purpose and duties.

14 (a) The commission shall conduct an in-depth examination and  
15 evaluation of the issues related to global warming and the potential impacts  
16 of global warming on the state, its citizens, its natural resources, and its  
17 economy, including without limitation, agriculture, travel and tourism,  
18 recreation, insurance, and economic growth and development.

19 (b) Based on the commission's evaluation of the current global warming  
20 data, the assessment of global warming mitigation strategies, and the  
21 available global warming pollutant reduction strategies, the commission shall  
22 set forth:

23 (1) A global warming pollutant reduction goal; and

24 (2) A comprehensive strategic plan for implementation of the  
25 global warming pollutant reduction goal.

26 (c) The commission shall present its global warming pollutant  
27 reduction goal and comprehensive strategic plan for consideration to the  
28 Eighty-Seventh General Assembly and develop findings and recommendations as  
29 may be directed thereafter by the Eighty-Seventh General Assembly.

30 (d) The purpose of the global warming pollutant reduction goal and  
31 comprehensive strategic plan is to place Arkansas in a position to help  
32 stabilize the global climate, to allow Arkansas to lead the nation in  
33 attracting clean and renewable energy industries to our state, and to reduce  
34 consumer energy dependence on current carbon-generating technologies and  
35 expenditures.

36 (e) In fulfilling its purpose under this act, the commission shall:

1           (1) Review current scientific literature on the causes of global  
 2 warming;

3           (2) Review actions taken by the federal government and by other  
 4 states to address global warming;

5           (3) Evaluate the available data regarding emissions of  
 6 greenhouse gases from within the state and evaluate the extent to which  
 7 reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases in the state may affect  
 8 global warming;

9           (4) Evaluate the economic opportunities for the state from the  
 10 emerging carbon market that may result from international, national, and  
 11 local efforts to address the effect of global warming;

12           (5) Conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis based on the projected  
 13 expenses of taking immediate action versus delayed action to address the  
 14 effect of global warming on individuals, households, local and state  
 15 governments, businesses, educational institutions, medical institutions,  
 16 agricultural operations, and other sectors identified by the commission; and

17           (6) Evaluate the benefit of any action taken at the state level,  
 18 either by or within this state or by other states, at the national level, or  
 19 at the international level to address the effect of global warming on  
 20 individuals, households, local and state governments, businesses, educational  
 21 institutions, agricultural operations, medical institutions, and other  
 22 sectors identified by the commission.

23           (7) The Governor's Commission on Global Warming is authorized to  
 24 accept gifts, grants, and donations for use in carrying out its purpose and  
 25 duties.

26  
 27       SECTION 6. Additional duties.

28       The commission may work cooperatively with other states and federal  
 29 governmental agencies to organize a Governor's forum on global warming,  
 30 including its causes, impacts, challenges, and opportunities in the region.

31  
 32       SECTION 7. Staffing.

33       Upon the prior approval of the Legislative Council of the General  
 34 Assembly, the Director of the Bureau of Legislative Research shall assign  
 35 professional staff to the commission to aid in its work.

1           SECTION 8. Meetings.

2           The Governor shall convene the first meeting of the commission, which  
 3 shall be at the State Capitol. Further meetings shall be at the call of the  
 4 co-chairs.

5  
 6           SECTION 9. Report.

7           The commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
 8 Governor on or before November 1, 2008, in order to report its findings and  
 9 recommendations to the Eighty-Seventh General Assembly.

10  
 11          SECTION 10. Life of commission.

12          The commission shall be abolished on or before December 31, 2009, at  
 13 the discretion of the Governor.

14  
 15          SECTION 11. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
 16 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that it is imperative that Arkansas  
 17 study the scientific data, literature, and research on global warming to  
 18 determine whether global warming is an immediate threat to the citizens in  
 19 the State of Arkansas; that the potential impact of global warming on the  
 20 state and its citizens, its natural resources, and the economy necessitates a  
 21 thorough review by the state and a strategy to deal with the consequences of  
 22 global warming; that economic opportunities might arise from an emerging  
 23 carbon market tailored to reduce carbon emissions; that failure to take  
 24 necessary steps to prevent, stabilize, or mitigate the effects of global  
 25 warming will cause irreparable harm to the lives and livelihoods of  
 26 Arkansans; and that this act is immediately necessary to ensure the welfare  
 27 and well-being of the citizens of this state. Therefore, an emergency is  
 28 declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the  
 29 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective  
 30 on:

31                 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

32                 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
 33 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
 34 bill; or

35                 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
 36 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.