

By: Representative Horne

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 151

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO CREATE A JOINT STUDY COMMITTEE TO
2 STUDY RESTRUCTURING OF THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY; TO DIRECT
3 THE JOINT COMMITTEE TO MAKE A WRITTEN REPORT OF ITS FINDINGS AND
4 RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 1999; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, electricity is a necessity for all individuals,
6 industries, businesses and municipalities in the State of
7 Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, the generation and transmission of electric power
9 and the sale and distribution of electricity to consumers within
10 the state are affected by the public interest; and

11 WHEREAS, markets for electricity are changing nationally and
12 appear to be moving toward increased competition; and

13 WHEREAS, changes in the electric utility industry could
14 enhance the competitive position of Mississippi's businesses and
15 industries, including Mississippi's ability to compete more
16 effectively in business development; and

17 WHEREAS, there is a need for careful consideration of all
18 issues involving customer choice and the potential restructuring
19 of, and competition in, the electric utility industry and the
20 system of electric utility regulations; and

21 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Public Service Commission is
22 currently studying electric industry restructuring and competition
23 in the provision of retail electric service in its active Docket
24 Number 96-UA-389:

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
26 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
27 THEREIN, That a special joint study committee is created to study

28 restructuring of the electric industry and competition in the
29 provision of retail electric service. The joint committee shall
30 be composed of seven (7) members of the House of Representatives
31 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House and seven (7) members
32 of the Senate to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. The
33 committee shall be chaired by a cochairman selected by the
34 appointed members of the House and a cochairman selected by the
35 appointed members of the Senate.

36 Within ten (10) days after the final passage of this
37 resolution during the 1999 Regular Session of the Legislature, the
38 Speaker and the Lieutenant Governor shall appoint the members of
39 the committee. Within ten (10) days after the members are
40 appointed, the membership shall meet on a date mutually agreed
41 upon by a majority of the members from each house for the purpose
42 of organizing the committee and establishing rules for transacting
43 its business and keeping records. A majority of the members of
44 the joint committee from each house shall constitute a quorum at
45 all committee meetings. An affirmative vote of a majority of the
46 members from each house present and voting shall be required in
47 the adoption of rules, resolutions and reports, and in any other
48 actions taken by the committee. All members of the joint
49 committee shall be notified in writing of all regular and special
50 meetings of the committee, which notices shall be mailed at least
51 five (5) days before the dates of the meetings. The joint
52 committee shall hold a minimum of three (3) regular special
53 meetings.

54 The joint committee shall make a written report of its
55 findings and recommendations, and shall mail copies of the report
56 to each member and member-elect of the Legislature not later than
57 December 1, 1999.

58 For attending meetings of the joint committee, each member
59 shall be paid, from the Contingent Expense Fund of the member's
60 respective house, per diem compensation in the amount authorized
61 by Section 25-3-69, Mississippi Code of 1972, and a mileage
62 allowance and an expense allowance in the amount authorized by
63 Section 5-1-47, Mississippi Code of 1972. However, no per diem
64 compensation, mileage allowance or expense allowance shall be paid

65 for attending meetings of the joint committee while the
66 Legislature is in session, and no per diem compensation, mileage
67 allowance or expense allowance shall be paid without prior
68 approval of the proper committee in the member's respective house.

69 All expenses incurred by and on behalf of the joint committee
70 shall be paid from funds made available by the House Management
71 Committee and the Senate Management Committee from the Contingent
72 Expense Fund of each respective house, from any funds appropriated
73 for the purpose of this resolution, and from any grants or
74 contributions made to the committee for its purpose.

75 In carrying out the provisions of this resolution, the joint
76 committee may utilize the services, facilities and personnel of
77 all departments, agencies, offices and institutions of the state,
78 including the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff.