

By: Senator(s) White (29th), Minor, Dearing, To: Rules
Frazier, Harden, Gordon, Nunnelee, Stogner,
Bean, Smith, Little, Browning, Ross,
Mettetal, White (5th), Hall, Hawks, Hamilton,
Horhn, Burton

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44

1 A RESOLUTION TO CREATE A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO STUDY
2 RESTRUCTURING OF THE ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY; TO DIRECT THE
3 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 MISSISSIPPI SENATE,
26 That a special study committee is created to study restructuring
27 of the electric industry and competition in the provision of

28 retail electric service. The committee shall be composed of seven
29 (7) members of the Senate to be appointed by the Lieutenant
30 Governor. The committee shall be chaired by a chairman selected
31 by the appointed members of the Senate.

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

48 The committee shall make a written report of its findings and
49 recommendations, and shall mail copies of the report to each
50 member and member-elect of the Senate not later than December 1,
51 1999.

52 For attending meetings of the joint committee, each member
53 shall be paid, from the Contingent Expense Fund of the Senate, per
54 diem compensation in the amount authorized by Section 25-3-69,
55 Mississippi Code of 1972, and a mileage allowance and an expense
56 allowance in the amount authorized by Section 5-1-47, Mississippi
57 Code of 1972. However, no per diem compensation, mileage
58 allowance or expense allowance shall be paid for attending
59 meetings of the committee while the Legislature is in session, and
60 no per diem compensation, mileage allowance or expense allowance
61 shall be paid without prior approval of the Senate Management
62 Committee.

63 All expenses incurred by and on behalf of the committee shall
64 be paid from funds made available by the Senate Management

65 Committee from the Contingent Expense Fund, from any funds
66 appropriated for the purpose of this resolution, and from any
67 grants or contributions made to the committee for its purpose.

68 In carrying out the provisions of this resolution, the
69 committee may utilize the services, facilities and personnel of
70 all departments, agencies, offices and institutions of the state,
71 including the Mississippi Public Utilities Staff.