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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to off-shore drilling of oil and gas;
3 providing legislative intent; creating within the
4 Department of Environmental Protection the Florida
5 Energy Independence and Coastal Protection Task Force;
6 prescribing the membership of the task force;
7 providing for duties and responsibilities of the task
8 force; providing for members of the task force to
9 serve without compensation or reimbursement for per
10 diem and travel expenses; requiring that the task
11 force prepare a final report by a specified date;
12 abolishing the task force on a specified date;
13 providing an effective date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16
17 Section 1. The Florida Energy Independence and Coastal
18 Protection Task Force.-

19 (1)(a) The Legislature finds that Florida's 663 miles of
20 beaches and 1,197 miles of coastline provide considerable
21 natural resources and economic benefit to the state. This state
22 is home to a remarkable diversity of coastal fisheries,
23 wildlife, and ecological communities that form the basis of much
24 of this state's recreational and economic activity, attracting
25 many of the state's 80 million annual visitors whose spending is
26 vital to this state's economy. In order to protect the economy
27 and natural resources of the coastal areas, the state has
28 maintained a ban on issuing oil and natural gas leases in state
29 waters.

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30 (b) The Legislature also finds that this state, its
31 residents, and its economy are dependent on gas, oil, and other
32 petroleum products imported from other nations. This places the
33 state at risk of economic harm if the gas or oil supply is
34 disrupted or if demand exceeds supply. To prevent such
35 disruption, there are a variety of actions that the Legislature
36 could take to address this dependency, including the
37 modification or removal of the ban on the issuance of oil and
38 gas leases in state waters, or the implementation of policies to
39 reduce this state's dependence on oil, gas, and petroleum
40 products.

41 (c) Before taking action with respect to oil and gas leases
42 in state waters, the Legislature finds that careful
43 consideration should be given to the effect that lifting the ban
44 would have on coastal communities, the state's natural
45 resources, and the state's tourism industry. The Legislature
46 finds that any such action must be preceded by a thorough and
47 comprehensive study and evaluation of the potential effects of
48 lifting the ban on drilling for natural gas or oil and an
49 evaluation of the state's estimated revenues from the drilling.

50 (d) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to
51 request the Governor, the Cabinet, and any other agency or
52 department having jurisdiction over the waters of this state to
53 refrain from drilling, leasing, or modifying a ban on leasing
54 gas and oil rights until the task force created by this act
55 reports to the Governor, the Legislature, and the people of this
56 state its findings and recommendations after full consideration
57 and deliberation of the subject issues.

58 (2) There is created within the Department of Environmental

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59 Protection the Florida Energy Independence and Coastal
60 Protection Task Force, a task force as defined in s. 20.03,
61 Florida Statutes.

62 (3) The task force shall consist of nine nongovernmental
63 members. The Governor shall appoint three nongovernmental
64 members. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
65 House of Representatives shall each appoint two nongovernmental
66 members and the minority leader of the Senate and the minority
67 leader of the House of Representatives shall each appoint one
68 nongovernmental member. The Governor shall designate one member
69 as the chair of the task force.

70 (4)(a) Each member must have experience in the area of
71 coastal tourism, energy production, or environmental protection.
72 In addition, each member must have expertise in natural resource
73 conservation, energy use, or economics. Representation on the
74 task force must be balanced among the areas of expertise.

75 (b) Members shall be appointed to serve from December 1,
76 2009, until December 31, 2010.

77 (5) Each task force member shall, at the time of his or her
78 appointment, disclose:

79 (a) Any financial interest that he or she may have, other
80 than ownership of shares in a mutual fund, in any business
81 entity that, directly or indirectly, owns or controls, or is an
82 affiliate or subsidiary of, any business entity that may profit
83 by the policy recommendations developed by the task force; and

84 (b) Whether he or she is employed by or is engaged in any
85 business activity with any business entity that, directly or
86 indirectly, owns or controls, or is an affiliate or subsidiary
87 of, any business entity that may profit by the policy

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88 recommendations developed by the task force.

89 (6) Members of the task force shall serve without
90 compensation or reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses.

91 (7) Meetings of the task force shall be held in various
92 locations around the state and at the call of the chair. The
93 task force must meet at least six times during its duration. All
94 meetings shall be open to the public as set forth in chapter
95 286, Florida Statutes. The first meeting shall be held no later
96 than January 15, 2010.

97 (8) The following persons, or their designees, shall serve
98 as ex officio members of the task force:

99 (a) The Secretary of Environmental Protection.

100 (b) The Secretary of Transportation.

101 (c) A representative of the Florida Energy and Climate
102 Commission.

103 (d) The executive director of the Fish and Wildlife
104 Conservation Commission.

105 (e) The Chief Financial Officer.

106 (f) The Attorney General.

107 (g) The Secretary of Community Affairs.

108 (h) A representative of the Florida Commission on Tourism.

109 (i) The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

110 (j) A representative of the alternative energy industry.

111 (k) A representative of labor.

112 (9) The task force may establish technical advisory
113 committees to gather information concerning:

114 (a) The size of potential deposits of oil and natural gas
115 which are located in this state's waters.

116 (b) The magnitude of the effect on the tourism industry,

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117 particularly the effect on coastal communities, which might
118 result from lifting the ban.

119 (c) The effect on property values caused by the leasing and
120 drilling for gas and oil.

121 (d) The revenue forecasts for and uses of revenue and
122 royalties paid to the state.

123 (e) The efforts undertaken in this state to solve or at
124 least ameliorate this state's dependence on foreign oil
125 supplies, on increasing energy efficiency, and on developing
126 renewable energy alternatives to the use of oil and natural gas.

127 (10) The Florida Energy Independence and Coastal Protection
128 Task Force shall issue a report to the Governor, the President
129 of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
130 by December 15, 2010. The report shall include:

131 (a) An evaluation of oil and natural gas deposits found in
132 areas described in s. 253.61(1), Florida Statutes.

133 (b) A description of the distance from shoreline of the
134 visible structures used in exploring, drilling, or processing
135 gas or oil deposits.

136 (c) The environmental impact on this state by oil and
137 natural gas leases located in the territorial waters of other
138 states and the waters of the United States.

139 (d) An estimate of the potential cost to clean up a worst-
140 case spill scenario on this state's coastline.

141 (e) An evaluation of the potential economic loss related to
142 a worst-case spill scenario.

143 (f) The proposed amount of insurance and financial
144 responsibility required to cover the cost of potential economic
145 loss.

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146 (g) The proposed size of oil and natural gas lease blocks.

147 (h) Recommendations for distributing lease and application
148 fees and royalties.

149 (i) An evaluation of royalties and severance taxes for oil
150 and natural gas collected in other states.

151 (j) Recommendations for improvements to current laws and
152 rules relating to environmental safety.

153 (k) The relative importance in solving this state's
154 dependence on foreign oil.

155 (l) The potential revenue and liabilities to this state
156 arising out of oil and gas drilling in this state's territorial
157 waters.

158 (11) The task force is abolished December 31, 2010.

159 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.