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.

State of Arkansas
86th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2007
A Bill

HOUSE BILL   2460

By: Representatives Webb, Adcock, T. Baker, Blount, Bond, T. Bradford, Breedlove, E. Brown, J.
Brown, Burris, Cash, Cheatham, Chesterfield, Cook, D. Creekmore, Dickinson, S. Dobbins, Dunn,
Lewellen, Lovell, Maloch, Moore, Pate, Pennartz, Petrus, Pickett, Pierce, Powers, S. Prater, Rainey,
Reep, Reynolds, J. Roebuck, Saunders, Schulte, Shelby, L. Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Sumpter, Wagner,
Walters, Wills, Woods, Rosenbaum, Maxwell
By: Senators Argue, Broadway, Brown, Bryles, Faris, J. Jeffress, Madison, Malone, Salmon, R.
Thompson, Crumbly

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE GOVERNOR’S COMMISSION ON
GLOBAL WARMING; TO DIRECT THE COMMISSION TO STUDY
ISSUES RELATED TO GLOBAL WARMING AND THE EMERGING
CARBON MARKET; TO ESTABLISH A GLOBAL WARMING
POLLUTANT REDUCTION GOAL AND COMPREHENSIVE
STRATEGIC PLAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle
TO ESTABLISH THE GOVERNOR’S COMMISSION
ON GLOBAL WARMING; TO DIRECT THE
COMMISSION TO STUDY ISSUES RELATED TO
GLOBAL WARMING; AND TO ESTABLISH A
GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTANT REDUCTION GOAL
AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

(a) The Governor’s Commission on Global Warming is hereby created and
established, referred to hereafter as the “commission”.
(b) The commission shall be composed of twenty-one (21) members appointed as follows:

1. Two (2) members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
2. Two (2) members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
3. Seventeen (17) members appointed by the Governor as follows:
   (A) One (1) member from the public energy sector;
   (B) One (1) member from a rural electric cooperative;
   (C) One (1) member from the municipal energy sector;
   (D) Two (2) members from the agriculture sector;
   (E) One (1) member from the forestry sector;
   (F) Two (2) members from separate nonprofit environmental organizations;
   (G)(i) Three (3) members who are scientists from an accredited state institution of higher education;
   (ii) One (1) of the three (3) scientists shall be a climatologist;
   (H) One (1) member from the state Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas;
   (I) One (1) member of the AFL-CIO;
   (J) One (1) member who is an economist from an accredited state institution of higher education;
   (K) One (1) member from the construction industry with experience in sustainable energy construction or design; and
   (L) Two (2) members who are citizens at large.

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

1. Arkansas Agriculture Department;
2. Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality;
3. Arkansas Forestry Commission;
4. Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department;
5. Arkansas Natural Resources Commission;
6. Arkansas Public Service Commission;
7. Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission;
(8) Department of Economic Development;  
(9) Department of Parks and Tourism; and  
(10) Oil and Gas Commission.

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

SECTION 3. Quorum.  
A quorum of the commission shall consist of a majority of the members.

SECTION 4. Vacancies.  
A vacancy on the commission shall be filled as soon as possible by the appointing authority.

SECTION 5. Purpose and duties.  
(a) The commission shall conduct an in-depth examination and evaluation of the issues related to global warming and the potential impacts of global warming on the state, its citizens, its natural resources, and its economy, including without limitation, agriculture, travel and tourism, recreation, insurance, and economic growth and development.

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

(1) A global warming pollutant reduction goal; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 6. Additional duties.

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

SECTION 7. Staffing.

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

SECTION 8. Meetings.

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


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

SECTION 10. Life of commission.

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

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

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

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/ Webb, et al