Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) There is hereby created the Kansas energy policy task force. The task force shall conduct a comprehensive, forward-looking study of energy policy issues in Kansas to promote quality of life, advance economic growth and support service and reliability.

(b) The task force shall consist of 25 members, as follows:

1. The chairperson and ranking minority member of the house of representatives committee on energy, utilities and telecommunications;
2. The chairperson and ranking minority member of the senate committee on utilities;
3. One member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
4. One member of the senate appointed by the senate president;
5. One member appointed by the governor;
6. One member of the state corporation commission or commission staff designated by the state corporation commission;
7. One member of the citizens' utility ratepayer board or board staff designated by the chairperson of the board;
8. One member from a large, commercial or industrial electric consumer designated by the Kansas chamber of commerce;
9. One member from a small, commercial or industrial electric consumer designated by the Kansas national federation of independent businesses;
10. One member that is a residential electric customer designated by Kansas AARP;
11. One member designated by the climate and energy project;
12. One member designated by the advance power alliance;
13. One member designated by the chief executive officer of Evergy;
14. One member designated by the chief executive officer of liberty utilities;
15. One member designated by the governing body of the association of Kansas municipal utilities;
16. One member designated by the Kansas power pool;
(17) one member designated by the Kansas municipal energy agency;
(18) one member designated by the Kansas city board of public utilities;
(19) one member designated by the governing body of the association of Kansas electric cooperatives;
(20) one member designated by the Kansas electric power cooperative;
(21) one member designated by sunflower electric power corporation;
(22) one member designated by midwest energy; and
(23) one member designated by ITC great plains.

(c) The task force shall elect a chairperson from the membership and shall meet at least four times a year on the call of the chairperson. The task force shall submit a report with any recommendations and accompanying studies to the house of representatives committee on energy, utilities and telecommunications and to the senate committee on utilities by December 31, 2020. Such report and recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, the following topics:

(1) Analysis of current state policies and laws that impact electric public utility operations and rates including, but not be limited to, a review of:
   (A) The effectiveness of current Kansas ratemaking practices, including whether such practices adequately attract needed utility capital investments and adequately discourage unnecessary capital investments in Kansas;
   (B) whether current ratemaking appropriately recovers the cost of serving customers from each customer class and balances utility profits with the public interest objectives of competitive electricity pricing and service quality;
   (C) whether allowing Kansas investor-owned electric public utilities to recover costs through surcharges and riders, without a traditional ratemaking process, has unnecessarily contributed to rising wholesale and retail electricity prices;
   (D) whether allowing Kansas electric cooperatives and municipal utilities to set rates and recover costs without a traditional regulatory ratemaking process is in the public interest;
   (E) how cyber and physical security and grid stabilization efforts have affected, or are projected to affect, electric public utility rates;
   (F) the value of a utility integrated resource planning process that requires state regulatory approval;
   (G) the impact of special contracts with commercial and industrial customers and economic development rates on other customer classes; and
   (H) economic analysis of the price fluctuations of generation fuels on the cost of electricity.
(2) Actions of regulatory agencies that impact Kansas utilities and customers, including, but not limited to:
   (A) Environmental regulations to protect wildlife, air or water quality;
   (B) whether electricity providers in the region are subject to similar state laws, regulations and oversight as those in Kansas; and
   (C) how utilities in the region have complied with regulations affecting their utility assets and whether Kansas utilities have employed similar strategies.

(3) The role of the southwest power pool and its impact on Kansas utilities and customers, including, but not limited to:
   (A) Requirements for transmission investments and the retail rate impacts of such required investments; and
   (B) the extent to which transmission investments by Kansas electric public utilities have impacted retail rates, including any incremental regional transmission costs incurred by Kansas ratepayers for transmission investments in other states.

(4) An analysis of the impact of external forces on utility reliability and rates, including, but not limited to:
   (A) Whether investments in electric transmission and renewable generation resources have contributed to the early retirement or reduced dispatch of existing generation and at what cost;
   (B) further investments in energy efficiency, including revenue decoupling and renewable energy incentives;
   (C) the economic impact on all parties of customer generation, demand rates and customer service charges;
   (D) advanced energy technologies including micro grids, electric vehicles, charging stations, customer generation, battery storage and transactive energy; and
   (E) customer growth, labor market, cost of materials and supplies and economic conditions.

(5) Review options available to the state corporation commission and the Kansas legislature, including, but not limited to:
   (A) Whether capital expenditures and operating expenses of Kansas electric public utilities can be managed to achieve and sustain competitive retail rates while maintaining adequate and reliable service;
   (B) whether performance-based regulation, economic development initiatives, price-cap regulation or other non-traditional ratemaking methods should be considered in ratemaking; and
   (C) how Kansas sales tax, property taxes, assessment rates and other fees and taxes on utilities compare to other states in the region and impact the competitiveness of utility rates.

(d) The staff of the office of revisor of statutes, the legislative
research department, the division of legislative administrative services, the
state corporation commission and any other state agency shall provide
assistance as may be requested by the Kansas energy policy task force.
(e) Legislative members of the Kansas energy policy task force
attending meetings authorized by the task force shall receive compensation
as provided by K.S.A. 75-3223(e), and amendments thereto. Such amounts
paid to members shall be paid from the budget of the state corporation
commission.
Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
publication in the Kansas register.