

55-1803. Creation of council; membership; chairperson and committees; employees; duties. (a)

The Kansas propane education and research council is hereby created. Members of the council shall be appointed by the governor from a list of nominees submitted by qualified industry organizations within 60 days after the effective date of this act. The council shall consist of 10 members, including four members representing retail marketers of propane; two members representing wholesalers, resellers, suppliers and importers of propane; two members representing manufacturers and distributors of propane gas equipment and transporters of propane; one public member; and the state fire marshal or the state fire marshal's designee who shall serve as an ex officio member.

(b) Members of the council shall serve terms of three years, except that, of the initial members, three shall be appointed for terms of one year and three shall be appointed for terms of two years, as designated by the governor. Members filling unexpired terms shall be appointed in a manner consistent with this section. Members may serve a maximum of two consecutive full terms, except that members filling unexpired terms may serve a maximum of eight consecutive years. Former members may be reappointed if they have not been members for a period of two years.

(c) The council shall select from among the council's members a chairperson and other officers as necessary, establish committees and subcommittees of the council and adopt rules and regulations and bylaws for the conduct of business. The council may establish advisory committees of persons other than council members.

(d) The council may employ an executive director to serve as chief executive officer and such other employees as it deems necessary. The council shall determine the compensation and duties of each and shall protect the handling of council funds through fidelity bonds.

(e) The administrative costs of operating the council shall not exceed 10% of the funds collected in any fiscal year.

(f) At the beginning of each fiscal year, the council shall prepare a budget plan that includes the estimated costs of all programs, projects and contracts of the council. The council shall provide an opportunity for public comment on the budget. The council shall prepare and make available to the public an annual report detailing the activities of the council in the previous year, those planned for the coming year and costs related to the activities.

(g) The council shall keep minutes, books and records that clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the council. The books of the council shall be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such other times as the council may designate. Copies of audits shall be provided to the executive director, to all members of the council and to any other member of the industry upon request.

(h) The council shall be subject to the Kansas open meetings act and shall require reports on the activities of the committees and subcommittees and on compliance, violations and complaints regarding the implementation of this act.

(i) The council shall develop programs and projects and enter into contracts or agreements for implementing this act, including programs to enhance consumer and employee safety and training, programs to provide research and development to improve existing propane technology, programs to increase efficiency of propane use and any other programs to educate the public about the safety and environmental aspects of propane. Safety issues shall receive first priority in the development of all programs and projects funded by the council. The funds collected for the council shall not be used to promote one energy source over another. In developing programs and projects and entering into contracts or agreements for implementing the provisions of this act, the council shall not use any funds collected by the council to provide for or assist the purchase of equipment related to such programs and projects by or for a private, for profit corporation or other business association or entity. The council shall not use any funds collected by the council to purchase propane products and equipment or replace propane products and equipment for Kansas consumers, including through cost-share programs, except that the council may use such funds for the purchase of propane products and equipment for displays in such programs or projects. The council shall provide for the payment of the costs of the programs and projects with funds collected pursuant to K.S.A. 55-1804, and amendments thereto, and shall coordinate the council's activities with qualified industry organizations to provide efficient delivery of services and to avoid unnecessary costs of duplication of activities.

(j) The council shall report annually to the house and senate committees on agriculture. Such report shall include details of council programs, projects and activities as provided pursuant to this act. The report provided in 2004 shall include a review of propane safety policies, statutes, rules and regulations in Kansas and adjoining states and shall include recommendations the council deems appropriate for policy, statutory or regulatory changes in Kansas to improve propane safety.

History: L. 2003, ch. 102, § 3; July 1.