

CHAPTER 55
HOUSE BILL No. 2306

AN ACT concerning the Kansas electric transmission authority; relating to the duties and powers of the authority; amending K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 74-99d07 and repealing the existing section.

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

Section 1. K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 74-99d07 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-99d07. (a) Except as otherwise provided by this act, the authority shall have all the powers necessary to carry out the purposes and provisions of this act, including, without limitation:

(1) Having the duties, privileges, immunities, rights, liabilities and disabilities of a body corporate and a political instrumentality of the state;

(2) having perpetual existence and succession;

(3) adopting, having and using a seal and altering the same at its pleasure;

(4) suing and being sued in its own name;

(5) adopting bylaws for the regulation of its affairs and the conduct of its business;

(6) adopting such rules and regulations as the authority deems necessary for the conduct of the business of the authority;

(7) employing consulting engineers, attorneys, accountants, construction and financial experts, superintendents, managers and such other employees and agents as the authority deems necessary and fixing the compensation thereof;

(8) making and executing all contracts and agreements necessary or incidental to the performance of the authority's duties and the execution of the authority's powers under this act;

~~(9) planning, financing, constructing, developing, acquiring, owning, disposing of, contracting for maintenance of and contracting with electric public utilities, electric cooperative utilities or electric municipal utilities for operation of transmission facilities of the authority and any real or personal property, structures, equipment or facilities necessary or useful for the accomplishment of the purposes for which the authority was created, including the obtaining of permits and the acquisition of rights of way;~~

~~(10)~~ (9) receiving and accepting from any federal agency grants, or any other form of assistance, for or in aid of the planning, financing, construction, development, acquisition or ownership of any property, structures, equipment, facilities and works of public improvement necessary or useful for the accomplishment of the purposes for which the authority was created and receiving and accepting aid or contributions from any source of either money, property, labor or other things of value, to be held, used and applied only for the purposes for which such grants and contributions may be made;

~~(11)~~ (10) borrowing funds to carry out the purposes of the authority and mortgaging and pledging any lease or leases granted, assigned or subleased by the authority;

~~(12)~~ (11) purchasing, leasing, trading, exchanging or otherwise acquiring, maintaining, holding, improving, mortgaging, selling, leasing and disposing of personal property, whether tangible or intangible, and any interest therein; and purchasing, leasing, trading, exchanging or otherwise acquiring real property or any interest therein, and maintaining, holding, improving, mortgaging, leasing and otherwise transferring such real property, so long as such transactions do not conflict with the mission of the authority as specified in this act;

~~(13)~~ (12) as provided by K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 74-99d09, and amendments thereto, incurring or assuming indebtedness and entering into contracts with the Kansas development finance authority, which is authorized to borrow money, issue bonds and provide financing for: (A) The construction, upgrading or repair of transmission facilities of the Kansas electric transmission authority or the acquisition of right-of-way for such facilities, or both, and any such bonds shall be payable from and be secured by the pledge of revenues derived from the operation of such electric transmission facilities; or (B) making loans to finance the construction, upgrading or repair of transmission facilities not owned by the Kansas electric transmission authority or the acquisition of right-of-way for such facilities, or both, upon such terms and conditions as required by the

authority, including a requirement that any entity receiving a loan under this act shall maintain records and accounts relating to receipt and disbursements of loan proceeds, transportation costs and information on energy sales and deliveries and make the records available to the authority for inspection, and any such bonds shall be payable from and be secured by the pledge of revenues derived from the operation of such electric transmission facilities;

~~(14)~~ (13) depositing any moneys of the authority in any banking institution within or without the state or in any depository authorized to receive such deposits, one or more persons to act as custodians of the moneys of the authority, to give surety bonds in such amounts in form and for such purposes as the board requires;

~~(15)~~ (14) recovering its costs through tariffs of the southwest power pool regional transmission organization, or its successor, and, if all costs are not recovered through such tariffs, through assessments against all electric public utilities, electric municipal utilities and electric cooperative utilities receiving benefits of the construction or upgrade and having retail customers in this state. Each such utility's assessment shall be based on the benefits the utility receives from the construction or upgrade, as determined by the state corporation commission upon application by the authority. In determining allocation of benefits and costs to utilities, the commission may take into account funding and cost recovery mechanisms developed by regional transmission organizations and shall take into account financial payments by transmission users and approved by the federal energy regulatory commission or regional transmission organization. Each electric public utility shall recover any such assessed costs from the utility's customers in a manner approved by the commission and each electric municipal or cooperative utility shall recover such assessed costs from the utility's customers in a manner approved by the utility's governing body;

~~(16)~~ participating in partnerships or joint ventures with individuals, corporations, governmental bodies or agencies, partnerships, associations or other entities to facilitate any activities or programs consistent with the public purpose and intent of this act, including partnerships or joint ventures for the purpose of financing all or any portion of a project pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 74-99d09, and amendments thereto;

~~(17)~~ (15) participating in and coordinating with the planning activities of the southwest power pool regional transmission organization, or its successor, and adjoining regional transmission organizations, or their successors; and

~~(18)~~ (16) participating in and coordinating with the planning activities of the southwest power pool regional reliability organization, or its successor, and adjoining regional reliability organizations, or their successors.

~~(b) (1)~~ Except as otherwise provided in this act, the authority shall not exercise any of the rights or powers granted to it in this act, if private entities are performing the acts, are constructing or have constructed the facilities or are providing the services contemplated by the authority and such private entities are willing to finance and own new infrastructure to meet an identified need and market.

~~(2)~~ Prior to exercising any rights or powers granted to it in this section, the authority shall publish once in the Kansas register, and once in a newspaper and trade magazine in the area where the facilities or services are contemplated, a notice describing the acts, facilities or services contemplated by the authority and stating that private entities willing and able to perform the acts, finance and own and construct the facilities or provide the services described in the notice shall have a period of 90 days after the date of publication of the notice within which to notify the authority of intention and ability to perform the acts, finance and construct the facilities or provide the services described in the notice. In the absence of notification by a private entity, the authority may proceed to perform the acts, construct the facilities or provide the services originally contemplated. If a private entity has given notice of intention to perform the acts, finance and construct the facilities or provide the services contemplated by the authority, the authority may proceed to perform the acts, construct the facilities or provide the services originally contemplated if the private entity fails to commence performance within 180 days after the date of notification of the authority of its intention. Actions deemed to constitute commencement of performance of the acts, con-

struction of the facilities or provision of the services within the required time shall include, but not be limited to, holding of public meetings on siting of facilities, acquisition of land or commencement of proceedings for condemnation of land, application to acquire any federal, state, local or private permits, certificates or other authorizations or approvals necessary to perform the acts, construct the facilities or provide the services.

~~(3)~~ Notwithstanding commencement of performance of the acts, construction of the facilities or provision of the services by a private entity, if the authority is not satisfied with subsequent progress in performance of the acts, construction of the facilities or provision of the services, the authority may again give notice as provided in subsection (b)(2) with respect to completion of performance of the acts, construction of the facilities or provision of the services. In the absence of notification by a private entity willing and able to complete performance of the acts, construction of the facilities or provision of the services, the authority may proceed to complete performance. If a private entity has given notice of intention to complete performance, the authority may proceed to perform the acts, construct the facilities or provide the services if the private entity fails to complete performance within 180 days after the date of notice by the entity.

~~(e)~~ The authority shall not operate or maintain transmission facilities.

~~(d)~~ The authority shall exercise the rights and powers granted to it in this act only with respect to transmission facilities which the southwest power pool regional transmission organization, or its successor, has determined are compatible with plans adopted by such organization and which have been approved by such organization.

~~(e)~~ (b) On or before the first day of the regular legislative session each year, the authority shall submit to the governor and to the legislature a written report of the authority's activities for the preceding fiscal year. Such report shall include the report of any audit conducted pursuant to K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 74-99d10, and amendments thereto, of the preceding fiscal year.

~~(f)~~ (c) The authority shall continue until terminated by law. No such law terminating the authority shall take effect while the authority has bonds, debts or obligations outstanding unless adequate provision has been made for the payment or retirement of such bonds, debts or obligations. Upon dissolution of the authority, all property, funds and assets thereof shall be disposed of as provided by law.

New Sec. 2. (a) Subject to the provisions of this act, the authority shall have the power to:

(1) Plan, finance, construct, develop, acquire, own, dispose of, contract for maintenance of and contract with electric public utilities, electric cooperative utilities or electric municipal utilities for operation of transmission facilities of the authority and any real or personal property, structures, equipment or facilities necessary or useful for the accomplishment of the purposes for which the authority was created, including the obtaining of permits and the acquisition of rights of way; and

(2) participate in partnerships or joint ventures with individuals, corporations, governmental bodies or agencies, partnerships, associations or other entities to facilitate any activities or programs consistent with the public purpose and intent of this act, including partnerships or joint ventures for the purpose of financing all or any portion of a project pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 74-99d09, and amendments thereto.

(b) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the authority shall not exercise any of the rights or powers granted to it in this section, if private entities are performing the acts, are constructing or have constructed the facilities or are providing the services contemplated by the authority and such private entities are willing to finance and own new infrastructure to meet an identified need and market.

(2) Prior to exercising any rights or powers granted to it in this section, the authority shall publish once in the Kansas register, and once in a newspaper and trade magazine in the area where the facilities or services are contemplated, a notice describing the acts, facilities or services contemplated by the authority and stating that private entities willing and able to perform the acts, finance and own and construct the facilities or provide the services described in the notice shall have a period of 90 days after the date of publication of the notice within which to notify the authority of intention and ability to perform the acts, finance and con-

struct the facilities or provide the services described in the notice. In the absence of notification by a private entity, the authority may proceed to perform the acts, construct the facilities or provide the services originally contemplated. If a private entity has given notice of intention to perform the acts, finance and construct the facilities or provide the services contemplated by the authority, the authority may proceed to perform the acts, construct the facilities or provide the services originally contemplated if the private entity fails to commence performance within 180 days after the date of notification of the authority of its intention. Actions deemed to constitute commencement of performance of the acts, construction of the facilities or provision of the services within the required time shall include, but not be limited to, holding of public meetings on siting of facilities, acquisition of land or commencement of proceedings for condemnation of land, application to acquire any federal, state, local or private permits, certificates or other authorizations or approvals necessary to perform the acts, construct the facilities or provide the services.

(3) Notwithstanding commencement of performance of the acts, construction of the facilities or provision of the services by a private entity, if the authority is not satisfied with subsequent progress in performance of the acts, construction of the facilities or provision of the services, the authority may again give notice as provided in subsection (b)(2) with respect to completion of performance of the acts, construction of the facilities or provision of the services. In the absence of notification by a private entity willing and able to complete performance of the acts, construction of the facilities or provision of the services, the authority may proceed to complete performance. If a private entity has given notice of intention to complete performance, the authority may proceed to perform the acts, construct the facilities or provide the services if the private entity fails to complete performance within 180 days after the date of notice by the entity.

(c) The authority shall not operate or maintain transmission facilities.

(d) The authority shall exercise the rights and powers granted to it in this act only with respect to transmission facilities which the southwest power pool regional transmission organization, or its successor, has determined are compatible with plans adopted by such organization and which have been approved by such organization.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 74-99d07 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Kansas register.

Approved March 28, 2007.

Published in the *Kansas Register* April 5, 2007.
