74-601. State corporation commission; creation; members, appointment, terms, vacancies; chairperson; salaries; application of K-GOAL. (a) There is hereby created the state corporation commission, which shall consist of three members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate as provided in K.S.A. 75-4315b, and amendments thereto. Except as provided by K.S.A. 46-2601, no person appointed to the commission shall exercise any power, duty or function as a member of the commission until confirmed by the senate. No more than two members of the commission shall belong to the same political party. Each member shall be appointed for a term of four years and until a successor has been appointed and confirmed. In case of a vacancy in the office of a member of the commission, the governor shall appoint a successor to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

(b) The terms of members who are serving on the commission on the effective date of this act shall expire on March 15, of the year in which such member's term would have expired under the provisions of this section prior to amendment by this act. Thereafter, members shall be appointed for terms of four years and until their successors are appointed and confirmed.

c) The commission shall elect one of its members as chairperson of the commission. The chairperson of the commission shall receive an annual salary in an amount equal to the annual salary prescribed by law for the chief judge of the court of appeals, payable monthly. Each other member of the commission shall receive an annual salary in an amount equal to the annual salary paid by the state to a judge of the court of appeals, other than the chief judge, payable monthly. Each member of the commission shall devote full time to the duties of the office.

d) The provisions of the Kansas governmental operations accountability law apply to the state corporation commission and the commission is subject to audit, review and evaluation under such law.


74-601a. Public service commission abolished. The public service commission as created by chapter 259 of the Laws of 1929, being sections 74-601, 74-602, 74-603, 74-605a, 74-605b, 74-605c, 74-606 and 74-608 of the 1931 Supplement to the Revised Statutes is hereby abolished.

History: L. 1933, ch. 275, § 2; March 18.

74-601b. Powers, duties, authority and jurisdiction of bank commissioner and charter board under 17-1223 to 17-1251 conferred upon commission. All the powers, duties, authority and jurisdiction now exercised by and imposed by law upon the bank commissioner and upon the charter board relating to speculative securities, and all powers, duties, authority and jurisdiction imposed upon the bank commissioner or the charter board under chapter 140 [17-1223 to 17-1251] of the Laws of 1929, the same being article 12 of chapter 17 of the 1931 Supplement to the Revised Statutes of Kansas for 1923, are hereby transferred to and imposed and conferred upon the state corporation commission herein created, and said state corporation commission is hereby empowered and directed to do all things necessary and convenient for the proper exercise of all such powers, duties, authority and jurisdiction.

History: L. 1933, ch. 275, § 4; March 18.

74-601c. Powers, duties, authority and jurisdiction under 55-601 to 55-609 conferred. All of the powers, duties, authority and jurisdiction heretofore vested in the public service commission under and by virtue of sections 55-601 to 55-609, 1931 Supplement to the Revised Statutes of Kansas, 1923, and chapter 214 of the Session Laws of 1933, be and are hereby vested in the state corporation commission.

History: L. 1933, ch. 79, § 1 (Special Session); Nov. 9.

74-602. Powers, duties, authority and jurisdiction conferred upon commission. All of the powers, duties, authority and jurisdiction now exercised by and imposed by law upon the public service commission relating to public utilities, common carriers and motor carriers, and all the powers, duties, authority and jurisdiction imposed upon the public utilities commission by chapter 238 of the Laws of 1911, as amended (now sections 66-101 to 66-195, inclusive, Revised Statutes of 1923, and 1931 Supplement thereto), and by chapter 239 of the Laws of 1931, the same being Revised Statutes 1931 Supplement, 74-602a to 74-602d [66-1401 to 66-1403, 66-1501], inclusive, and all parts of the laws relating to the duties and liabilities of railroads (now sections 66-201 to 66-1209, inclusive, Revised Statutes of 1923, and 1931 Supplement thereto), under which the public service commission now exercises jurisdiction over common carriers and motor carriers,
are hereby transferred to and imposed and conferred upon the state corporation commission created under the provisions of this act, and the state corporation commission herein created is hereby empowered and directed to do all things necessary and convenient for the proper exercise of all such powers, duties, authority and jurisdiction.

History: L. 1933, ch. 275, § 3; March 18.

74-605. Corporation commission; qualifications and oaths of members, secretary and attorney; extra employees. No person owning any bonds, stock or property in any railroad company or other common carrier or public utility, or who is in the employment of, or who is in any way or manner pecuniarily interested in, any railroad company or other common carrier or public utility, shall be eligible, except as hereinafter provided, to the office of commissioner, attorney or secretary of said commission, nor shall such commissioner, attorney or secretary hold any office of profit or any position under any committee of any political party, or hold any other position of honor, profit or trust under or by virtue of any of the laws of the United States or of the state of Kansas. Said commissioners shall be qualified electors of the state, and shall not while such commissioners engage in any occupation or business inconsistent with their duties as such commissioners.

And if any member of the commission, at the time of his appointment, shall own any bonds, stock or property in any railroad company or other common carrier or public utility, or is in the employment of, or is in any way or manner pecuniarily interested in any railroad company or any common carrier or public utility, such commissioner or other appointee shall within thirty (30) days divest himself of such interest or employment, and upon his failing to do so he shall forfeit his office, and the governor shall remove such commissioner and shall appoint his successor, who shall hold until a successor is appointed and qualified.

Each of said commissioners, attorney and secretary shall be sworn, before entering upon the discharge of the same, to faithfully perform the duties of the respective offices. Said commission is authorized and empowered to employ, subject to the approval of the governor, such extra accountants, engineers, experts and special assistants as in its judgment may be necessary and proper to carry the provisions of this act into effect, and to fix their compensation; and such employees shall hold their office during the pleasure of said commission: Provided, That no person related by blood or marriage to any member of such commission shall be appointed or employed by said commission.


74-605a. Same; oaths of members. The members of the state corporation commission shall take the oath required for other state officers.


74-606. Corporation commission main office in Topeka, conservation division in Wichita; director, petroleum engineer and interagency coordinator of division unclassified. The state corporation commission shall keep its office in the city of Topeka, and the office of the conservation division in the city of Wichita and the members thereof may act officially in any part of the state. The director of the conservation division of the state corporation commission shall be in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act. The petroleum engineer and interagency coordinator within the conservation division of the state corporation commission shall be in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act.


74-607. Same; records; seal; copies as evidence. Said corporation commission shall keep an accurate record of all its official acts, and shall also provide a seal. All process or certificates issued or given by the said commission shall be attested by its seal. Copies of the record of the commission, certified by the secretary and attested with the seal of the commission, shall be received in evidence with like effect as copies of other public records.

History: R.S. 1923, 74-607; Dec. 27.

74-614. State corporation commission; certain professional employees of utilities division in unclassified service. On and after the effective date of this act, all engineers, auditors, accountants, rate analysts, economists and similar professional employees within the utilities division of the state corporation commission shall be in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act.

History: L. 1979, ch. 236, § 1; April 24.
74-615. State corporation commission; director of transportation division in unclassified service. The director of the transportation division of the state corporation commission shall be in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act.


74-616. State corporation commission; powers and duties relating to energy resources. In addition to other powers and duties provided by law, in administering the provisions of this act the state corporation commission shall:

(a) Adopt rules and regulations necessary for the administration of this act;
(b) develop a comprehensive state energy conservation plan and the procedures for implementing the plan according to federal requirements;
(c) make requests for and accept funds and other assistance from federal agencies for energy conservation and other energy-related activities in this state, including, but not limited to, the state energy program;
(d) administer federal energy conservation programs in this state;
(e) prepare an emergency management plan for natural gas and electric energy to be adopted during activation of emergency support function 12 of the Kansas response plan established under K.S.A. 48-920 et seq., and amendments thereto, which plan shall include the system of priorities for natural gas and electric energy allocation and curtailment of energy resources consumption established under K.S.A. 74-620, and amendments thereto.


74-617. Receipt and disbursement of federal funds; energy grants management fund created. Whenever any moneys are received by the state corporation commission from federal agencies for energy conservation and other energy-related activities, the state corporation commission shall remit all such moneys to the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the energy grants management fund, which is hereby created in the state treasury. All expenditures from such fund shall be made in accordance with appropriation acts and any applicable contracts or agreements upon warrants of the director of accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the chairperson of the state corporation commission, or by a person designated by the chairperson.


74-619. Proclamation of state of disaster emergency by governor when demand exceeds energy supply. (a) Except as provided for in K.S.A. 48-924, and amendments thereto, whenever it appears from an evaluation of conditions in the state by the governor that the supply of natural gas and electric energy is inadequate to meet the demand for such energy in the state or any geographic areas of the state and that the public health, safety and welfare are threatened thereby, the governor may proclaim that a state of disaster emergency exists pursuant to K.S.A. 48-924, and amendments thereto.


74-620. Same; system of priorities for energy resource allocation; rules and regulations. The state corporation commission shall adopt rules and regulations establishing a system of priorities for the allocation of available natural gas and electric energy or for the curtailment of the consumption of such natural gas and electric energy, or both, during an activation of emergency support function 12 of the Kansas response plan proclaimed by the governor pursuant to K.S.A. 48-920 et seq., and amendments thereto. Such rules and regulations shall apply to all suppliers and consumers of natural gas and electric energy.

History: L. 1983, ch. 258, § 5; L. 2007, ch. 65, § 3; July 1.

74-621. Same; unlawful acts, penalty. It is unlawful during any energy resources emergency proclaimed by the governor under K.S.A. 74-619 for any person to intentionally violate any provision of the system of priorities for the allocation of available energy resources or for the curtailment of the consumption of such energy resources, or both, established by any rule and regulation adopted by the state corporation commission under K.S.A. 74-620. Such violation of any such provision by any person is a class C misdemeanor.

History: L. 1983, ch. 258, § 6; July 1.
74-622. Kansas energy office abolished; state corporation commission, successor; transfer of appropriations, records, employees; continuation of effect of rules and regulations and orders and directives. (a) On July 1, 1983, the unexpended balances of any appropriations for and funds available to the Kansas energy office abolished under this act are hereby transferred to the state corporation commission to be used for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this act.

(b) On July 1, 1983, all records and property of the Kansas energy office abolished under this act are hereby transferred to and conferred and imposed upon the state corporation commission.

(c) Whenever the Kansas energy office, or words of like effect, is referred to or designated by a contract, grant or other document, such reference or designation shall be deemed to apply to the state corporation commission. Whenever the director of the Kansas energy office, or words of like effect, is referred to or designated by a contract, grant or other document, such reference or designation shall be deemed to apply to the state corporation commission. All awards or grants made by the director of the Kansas energy office, which are in effect on July 1, 1983, shall continue to be effective for the duration of the period for which they were made, unless revised or nullified in accordance with law. All contracts entered into by the director of the Kansas energy office prior to July 1, 1983, and not fully executed on such date, shall remain in full force and effect until fully executed or until terminated or revoked in the manner provided in such contract or as is otherwise provided by law on the date of such contract.

(d) All rules and regulations and all orders and directives of the director of the Kansas energy office in existence immediately prior to the effective date of this act which relate to the powers, duties and functions imposed by law upon the state corporation commission shall continue to be effective and shall be deemed to be the rules and regulations and orders or directives of the state corporation commission, until revised, amended, repealed or nullified pursuant to law.

(e) Effective July 1, 1983, and subject to the provisions of appropriations acts, officers and employees who were officers and employees of the Kansas energy office and who were engaged immediately prior to that date in the performance of the same or similar powers, duties and functions which are transferred to or imposed upon the state corporation commission by this act, and who, in the opinion of the chairperson of the state corporation commission, are necessary to perform such powers, duties and functions shall become officers and employees of the state corporation commission, and shall retain all retirement benefits which such officer or employee had before July 1, 1983, and their services shall be deemed to have been continuous. All such officers and employees who become officers and employees of the state corporation commission under this section shall be in the unclassified service under the Kansas civil service act.

(f) The Kansas energy office is hereby abolished.

History:  L. 1983, ch. 258, § 7; July 1.

74-623. Jurisdiction to regulate oil and gas activities with corporation commission; transfer of powers to commission from department of health and environment; contracts, rules and regulations and orders remain in effect. (a) The state corporation commission shall have the exclusive jurisdiction and authority to regulate oil and gas activities. The state corporation commission's jurisdiction shall include: (1) All practices involved in the exploration for and gathering of oil and gas and the drilling, production, lease storage, treatment, abandonment and postabandonment of oil and gas wells; (2) underground porosity storage of natural gas, as defined in K.S.A. 2002 Supp. 55-1,115, and amendments thereto; and (3) prevention and cleanup of pollution of the soils and waters of the state from oil and gas activities described in (1) or (2).

The state corporation commission shall not have jurisdiction over the refining, treating or storing of oil or gas after transporting of such oil or gas, except for the storing of natural gas described in (2).

(b) All jurisdiction and authority of the Kansas department of health and environment relating to the cleanup of pollution of the soils and waters of the state from oil and gas activities described in subsection (a) is hereby transferred to the state corporation commission.

(c) The state corporation commission shall be the successor in every way to the powers, duties and functions of the Kansas department of health and environment relating to the cleanup of pollution of the soils and waters of the state from oil and gas activities described in subsection (a). Every act performed in the exercise of such powers, duties and functions by or under authority of the state corporation commission shall be deemed to have the same force and effect as if performed by the department of health and environment.

(d) Whenever the Kansas department of health and environment, or words of like effect, is referred to or designated by a statute, contract or other document relating to the cleanup of pollution of the soils and waters of the state from oil and gas activities described in subsection (a), such reference shall be deemed to apply to the state corporation commission.

(e) All rules and regulations of the secretary of health and environment which are in existence on July 1, 1995, and relate to the cleanup of pollution of the soils and waters of the state from oil and gas activities described in subsection (a) shall continue to be effective and shall be deemed to be the duly adopted rules and regulations of the state corporation commission until revised, amended, revoked or nullified pursuant to law.

(f) All orders and directives of the Kansas department of health and environment which are in existence on July 1, 1995, and relate to the cleanup of pollution of the soils and waters of the state from oil and gas activities described in subsection (a) shall continue to be effective and shall be deemed to be orders and directives of the state corporation commission until revised, amended, revoked or nullified pursuant to law.

Corporation commission successor to certain property and records; transfer of funds and appropriations. The state corporation commission shall succeed to all property and records of the Kansas department of health and environment which were used for, or pertained to, the performance of the powers, duties and functions transferred pursuant to K.S.A. 74-623 through 74-628, and amendments thereto. On July 1, 1995, the balance of all funds appropriated and reappropriated to the department of health and environment for the activities of the department of health and environment relating to the protection of surface water and groundwater from pollution by oil and gas activities, which activities shall include all practices involved in the exploration for oil and gas and the drilling, production, lease storage, treatment, abandonment and postabandonment of oil and gas wells and salt water disposal or injection wells are hereby transferred to the state corporation commission and shall be used only for the purposes for which the appropriation was originally made. Any conflict as to the proper disposition of such property or records or the unexpended balances of any appropriation or reappropriation arising under this section shall be resolved by the governor, and the decision of the governor shall be final.


Liability for compensation and salaries transferred to commission. On July 1, 1995, liability for all accrued compensation or salaries of officers and employees who, immediately prior to such date, were engaged in the performance of powers, duties and functions transferred by K.S.A. 74-623 through 74-628, and amendments thereto, shall be assumed and paid by the state corporation commission.

History: L. 1986, ch. 201, § 3; L. 1995, ch. 204, § 16; July 1.

Conflicts to be resolved by the governor. Whenever any conflict arises as to the disposition of any power, duty or function as a result of any transfer made by or under authority of K.S.A. 74-623 through 74-628, and amendments thereto, such conflict shall be resolved by the governor, and the decision of the governor shall be final.


Civil and criminal proceedings shall not abate. (a) No suit, action or other proceeding, judicial or administrative, lawfully commenced by or against the Kansas department of health and environment or by or against any officer or employee of the department acting in the official capacity of such officer or employee or in relation to the discharge of official duties, shall abate by reason of the transfer of powers, duties and functions effected under the provisions of K.S.A. 74-623 through 74-628, and amendments thereto. The court may allow any such suit, action or proceeding to be maintained by or against the state corporation commission.

(b) No criminal action commenced or which could have been commenced by the state shall abate by the taking of effect of K.S.A. 74-623 through 74-628, and amendments thereto.


Transfer of certain officers and employees. (a) On July 1, 1995, all officers and employees who were engaged immediately prior to that date in the performance of powers, duties and functions transferred pursuant to K.S.A. 74-623 through 74-627, and amendments thereto, and who are necessary to perform such powers, duties and functions, shall be transferred to and shall become officers and employees of the state corporation commission.

(b) Any officer or employee transferred pursuant to this section whether before or after amendment of this section on July 1, 1995, shall retain all retirement benefits and all rights of civil service which have accrued to or vested in such officer or employee prior to the officer’s or employee’s transfer. The service of each officer or employee so transferred shall be deemed to have been continuous. All transfers and any abolishments of personnel in the classified service under the Kansas civil service act shall be in accordance with civil service laws and rules and regulations adopted thereunder.


Organization of commission office; delegation of powers and duties to executive director, general counsel and division and other directors. The state corporation commission is authorized to organize the office of the state corporation commission as it deems most efficient, so long as the same is not in conflict with law. Division directors, and other directors specified in subsection (b) of K.S.A. 74-
630, the general counsel and the executive director shall perform such duties and exercise powers as are delegated by the state corporation commission and such duties and powers as are prescribed by law.

**History:** L. 1994, ch. 1, § 2; July 1.

### 74-630. Appointment of certain commission officers in unclassified service.

(a) The state corporation commission may appoint persons to the positions specified in subsection (b) to serve as full-time employees of the state. Such persons shall be in the unclassified service of the Kansas civil service act and shall receive compensation fixed by the state corporation commission and approved by the governor, subject to the limitations of appropriations therefor.

(b) The offices to which this section apply are the following:

1. The director of the division of utilities;
2. The director of the division of conservation;
3. The director of the division of transportation;
4. The director of public affairs and consumer protection;
5. The general counsel; and
6. The executive director, who shall also serve as secretary to the state corporation commission.

**History:** L. 1994, ch. 1, § 3; July 1.

### 74-631. Appointment of other commission employment in classified service.

The state corporation commission, subject to the Kansas civil service act and subject to appropriations therefor, may appoint other employees necessary to implement the duties and powers prescribed by law. Employees appointed under this section shall be in the classified service of the Kansas civil service act, unless otherwise specifically provided by law.

**History:** L. 1994, ch. 1, § 4; July 1.

### 74-633. Representative to regional transmission organization, authority.

(a) The state corporation commission representative to any regional transmission organization recognized by the federal energy regulatory commission of which one or more Kansas electric public utilities is a member is hereby authorized to participate fully in all decision-making bodies of such regional transmission organization, whether the decision of such bodies are advisory to or binding on the regional transmission authorization.

(b) Nothing in this section shall limit the state corporation commission's regulatory jurisdiction or authority to appeal to the federal energy regulatory commission any decision by a regional transmission organization or relieves the commission of its obligation and authority to ensure electric public utilities provide efficient and sufficient service.

**History:** L. 2005, ch. 107, § 1; Apr. 21.

### 75-37,125. Energy conservation measure, financing; prior approval of plans and projects; definitions.

(a) As used in this act:

1. "Federal entity" means the government of the United States of America or any bureau, department, instrumentality or other agency of the federal government.
2. "Political subdivision" shall have the meaning ascribed thereto in subsection (o) of K.S.A. 74-8902, and amendments thereto.
3. "State agency" means any office, department, board, commission, bureau, division, public corporation, agency or instrumentality of this state.
4. "Energy conservation measure" means an energy study, audit, improvement or equipment which is designed to provide energy and operational cost savings at least equivalent to the amount expended by a participating political subdivision or state agency for such energy study, audit, improvement or equipment over a period of not more than 30 years after the date such improvement or equipment is installed or becomes operational, as the case may be.

(b) Subject to the provisions of subsection (c), a political subdivision or state agency, which include the board of regents and a regent's institution and a community or technical college, may enter into a contract or lease-purchase agreement for an energy conservation measure which meets the criteria of this section. In addition to any other authority provided by law a political subdivision or state agency may solicit proposals to contract for an energy conservation measure by advertising for proposals and qualifications in a newspaper of general circulation or the Kansas register, and by sending requests for proposals to at least three vendors and negotiating a lease-purchase agreement with one or more vendors submitting a proposal thereto. Negotiations entered into pursuant to this section with individual vendors shall not be subject to the provisions of the open meetings act. After an agreement has been executed, the agreement and all proposals from vendors
shall be open records available for public inspection in accordance with the open records act. A state agency may utilize the procedures prescribed in K.S.A. 75-37,102, and amendments thereto, by the procurement negotiating committee to negotiate and contract for energy conservation measures. Each state agency shall provide copies of plans of the proposed energy conservation measure to the state corporation commission for review. No state agency may enter into a contract for an energy conservation measure unless such measure has been approved by the state corporation commission. Plans submitted under this section shall be retained and maintained by the state corporation commission.

(c) Before executing any contract or finance, pledge, loan or lease-purchase agreement under this section, the energy conservation contractor shall provide the political subdivision or state agency with plans for the proposed energy conservation measures prepared by an engineer licensed to practice in Kansas. The energy conservation contractor shall also provide a report of the calculations showing the estimated energy and operational cost savings that would result from the proposed energy conservation measures. Notwithstanding any provision contained in K.S.A. 71-201 and 72-8225, and amendments thereto or other provisions of law, the board of education of any school district and the board of any community college or technical college may enter into a contract or finance, pledge, loan or lease-purchase agreement for an energy conservation measure for a period exceeding 10 years. Political subdivisions and state agencies may include a provision in the contract with an entity providing the energy conservation measure requiring such entity to guarantee that the actual amount of savings of energy and operational costs attributable to the energy conservation measure be not less than the cost of the energy conservation measure over the time specified including financing costs.

(d) Within the limits of appropriations available therefor, the state corporation commission is authorized to provide grants for engineering studies and energy conservation measures for political subdivisions and state agencies.

(e) The state corporation commission, or its designee, may provide administrative support and resources available under the facility conservation improvement program under this section or K.S.A. 75-37,111 et seq., and amendments thereto, as requested by school districts, private and public colleges in Kansas, political subdivisions, state agencies or federal entities for purposes of this section. The state corporation commission, or its designee, may fix, charge and collect reasonable fees for any administrative support and resources or other services provided by the state corporation commission, or its designee, under this subsection.

(f) The provisions of the cash basis law and K.S.A. 79-2925, and amendments thereto, shall not apply to any contract or lease-purchase agreement entered into pursuant to this section.


75-37,129. Energy conservation measures; promotion of program by state corporation commission. Within the limitations of appropriations therefor, the energy programs division of the state corporation commission shall develop and increase the participation of school districts and local governments in the facilities conservation improvements program pursuant to K.S.A. 75-37,125, and amendments thereto.

History: L. 2009, ch. 141, § 20; May 28.