

The party states recognize that the proper employment and conservation of energy and employment of energy-related facilities, materials, and products, within the context of a responsible regard for the environment, can assist substantially in the industrialization of the South and the development of a balanced economy for the region. They also recognize that optimum benefit from and acquisition of energy resources and facilities require systematic encouragement, guidance, and assistance from the party states on a cooperative basis. It is the policy of the party states to undertake such cooperation on a continuing basis; it is the purpose of this compact to provide the instruments and framework for such a cooperative effort to improve the economy of the South and contribute to the individual and community well-being of the region's people.

[(2)] Article II. The Board.

(a) There is hereby created an agency of the party states to be known as the "Southern States Energy Board" (hereinafter called the board). The board shall be composed of three members from each party state, one of whom shall be appointed or designated in each state to represent the governor, the state senate, and the state house of delegates, respectively. Each member shall be designated or appointed in accordance with the law of the state which the member represents and serving and subject to removal in accordance with such law. Any member of the board may provide for the discharge of the member's duties and the performance of the member's functions thereon (either for the duration of the membership or for any lesser period of time) by a deputy or assistant, if the law of the member's state makes specific provision therefore. The federal government may be represented without vote if provision is made by federal law for such representation.

(b) Each party state shall be entitled to one vote on the board, to be determined by majority vote of each member or member's representative from the party state present and voting on any question. No action of the board shall be binding unless taken at a meeting at which a majority of all party states are represented and unless a majority of the total number of votes on the board are cast in favor thereof.

(c) The board shall have a seal.

(d) The board shall elect annually, from among its members, a chairman, vice-chairman, and a treasurer. The board shall appoint an executive director who shall serve at its pleasure and who shall also act as secretary, and who, together with the treasurer, shall be bonded in such amounts as the board may require.

(e) The executive director, with the approval of the board, shall appoint and remove or discharge such personnel as may be necessary for the performance of the board's functions irrespective of the civil service, personnel or other merit system laws of any of the party states.